

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What do you use: paper, plastic, or reusable bags?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Strong Quake

A strong 5.4-magnitude earthquake rattled buildings and nerves in Southern California.

NATION...Page 14



Damage Control

Shia LaBeouf's rising star has earned its first significant blemish and is now a cause for damage control.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Environmental impact of military buildup weighed. **PAGE 2**

DPL now required to consult mayors on land issues. **PAGE 3**

FITIAL ISSUES ANOTHER EXECUTIVE ORDER

CUC debt limit at \$5M

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday issued an executive order allowing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to borrow up to \$5 million without first obtaining legislative consent.

See CUC on Page 4

CUC still has a severe cash flow problem and the Governor wishes to provide CUC with more tools and options to surmount its enormous financial challenges.

—Press secretary Charles Reyes



PRAYER OFFERING

Buddhist priest Kayaki Kansho stands on the edge of a cliff as he leads the offering of prayers for World War II victims during the 30th anniversary of the Sanpo-en memorial ceremony at the Sanpo-en Peace Monument in Banzai Cliff in Marpi yesterday. With Kansho are 30 Japanese students from Osaka, Kyushu, Nagano, and Tokyo who are part of the annual cultural exchange summer programs, along with 12 chaperones.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bid to revive CK roundhouse moves ahead

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A bid to restore a long disused round-

house in Chalan Kanoa as a monument to the CNMI's ancestral leadership is gaining momentum after the completion of a government survey last week and

a pending conference Friday aimed at crafting the project's design.

The proposed monument, an initia-

See BID on Page 4

CUC privatization bill heads to Fitial

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill calling for the Commonwealth's power system to be privatized through a bidding process is now headed to the governor for his signature.

See PRIVATIZATION on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Edward T. Salas and Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider read a document during a break in the session at the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

DoC wants to hire 25 more officers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Corrections is seeking Gov. Benigno Fitial's approval to fill several vacancies for Corrections officers in order for the department to effectively run the new prison in Susupe.

Department Commissioner Lino S. Tenorio said in an interview

with the *Saipan Tribune* that, to operate the new prison at full capacity, at least 25

See DOC on Page 4



Tenorio

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Local

Environmental impact of military buildup weighed

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Alternative energy and green building practices were some of the issues on the agenda Wednesday in the second round of talks this week with local officials and the Joint Guam Program Office as they begin evaluating the environmental impact of a pending military buildup in the region.

Established by the Department of Defense to address military plans on Guam, the JGPO is now gearing up for the relocation of an estimated 8,000 U.S. service personnel and their 9,000 family members

from Okinawa, Japan, to the island. The move will require the construction of port infrastructure for naval ships and scores of new construction projects to support military operations and personnel, according to a JGPO report on the plan.

The pending buildup could give Guam and the CNMI a major economic boost, yet with that comes a host of environmental concerns that Lisa Fiedler, JGPO's environmental director, says officials in the conference sought to address with a review of a draft environment impact statement.

"We're trying to do things in an environmentally friendly

way," Fiedler said, adding the talks have touched on topics like energy conservation and "green" building techniques. Alternative energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal power also played a significant role in the day's early discussions, she said, as did the use of "sustainable" design elements for construction projects, such as rain catchments that curb erosion and run-off.

A key element for JGPO's plans as the buildup begins is to ensure they might also benefit the local community, Fiedler said. For example, she noted road-building projects could improve civic

transportation systems.

"What we're trying to do is also look at what the local issues, concerns and needs are to see if there's a way we can build things that supports the community," she said. "We try to do

things that will have direct benefits to the community as well as DOD. If there's a way we can help the economy through jobs or something else, we certainly want to do that."

Tinian and Pagag might

serve as the staging ground for some military training once the buildup happens but, according to John Joyner, director of CNMI Coastal Resources Management and an organizer for See ENVIRONMENTAL on Page 4



LAOLAO PROJECT

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Workers are seen toiling on the construction site of the \$70-million golf resort project touted to make Saipan "the premier golf destination in the Pacific" at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort yesterday. The Golf-tel project is the biggest construction on the island since Hafadai Beach Hotel opened its 20-floor Taga Tower back in 1997.

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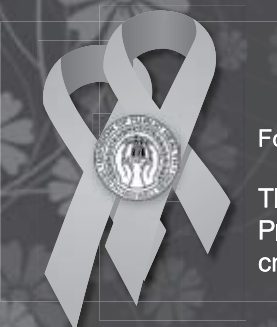


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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, August 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Acting Commissioner of Education
 - c. Non-Public School Representative
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Contract, selection procedures and instruments for COE position
 - b. Setting of Interview schedule for COE applicants
- V. New Business
 - a. Head Start '08-'09 Supplemental Training and Technical Assistance Grant Application
 - b. SB 16-36, SD2 [re: proportionate pension payment]
- VI. Executive Session
 - a. Legal Updates
 - b. Personnel
 - i. Contract, selection procedures and instruments for COE position
 - ii. Review of Applications for COE position
 - c. Other matters
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
 - a. Trip Reports
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- IX. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

DPL now required to consult mayors on land issues

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday rejected Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of legislation requiring the Department of Public Lands to consult each respective mayor before taking any action on public lands in his or her municipality.

The override vote in the House was 16-1, easily meeting the two-thirds threshold to nullify the governor's veto.

Results of probe on the cause of MGM fire may be known today

The Department of Public Safety may release today the result of the fire investigators' report on what caused the fire that engulfed the MGM garment factory in Chalan Piao last July 9.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* she will release the final report to the media today, Thursday.

Asked whether the investigators already determined the origin of the fire, Ogumoro replied: "I hope so. I hope it's in the report. That should be finalized tomorrow."

Ogumoro had promised to release the report since Monday.

Last July 14, DPS commissioner Claudio Norita said fire investigators were still determining what caused the blaze. Norita told the media

Sen. Stanley T. Torres was only member to vote against the override. The Senate last Friday voted unanimously to override. With this, the bill is now law.

Fitial disapproved the legislation, saying it "impedes in the progress and development of the DPL and it violates the Constitution."

But the lawmakers said the measure does not take away DPL's constitutional authority to manage public lands; it simply requires DPL to get lo-

cal perspective before taking any action.

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Representatives of the Pew Charitable Trust recently returned from a trip to Hawaii to gather information they hope will better inform the community about the proposed Mariana Trench National Monument in the Commonwealth's northern waters.

The group traveled to Hawaii to see and learn about the Papahānaumokuākea National Monument, currently the largest marine protected area in the world, and the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, Papahānaumokuākea's visitor center, said Angelo Villagomez, local Pew staff coordinator.

The proposed Mariana Trench National Monument would include a visitor center similar to the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, which averages 150 visitors a day, he added.

The group also visited the Volcanoes National Park because the proposed Mariana Trench

already provides for an advisory board that includes representatives from each municipality. He noted that although the Tinian Mayor's Office has appointed a representative to the board, that representative has never been called for a meeting.

Rep. Victor Hocog echoed Aldan's claim, saying that none of the Rota individuals

Monument would include two emerging volcanoes.

Villagomez said he wanted to better understand what a similar monument might be like in the Commonwealth.

"[I went] just to get a feel for what something [in the CNMI] might look like, and explain that to people in our presentations," he said.

Villagomez plans to share video and photos he took while

named to serve on an advisory board have accepted the appointment because the position is uncompensated and carries no real authority.

In his veto message to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, the governor said that requiring the DPL secretary to adhere to the mayors' position

in Hawaii "just to kind of give people an idea of what something similar might look like here."

Critics, including Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) and Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas, argue the monument will force the CNMI government to hand over regulations on activities like fishing and mining to the federal government. Supporters say the monument will preserve the ecosystem and bring added tourism

would only add another layer of bureaucracy in managing public lands.

Fitial further argued that the measure violates the Constitution, which designates the management of public lands to the Executive Branch. "The measure would change that constitutional mandate as it will allow the mayors to share management authority, which is in direct violation of the Constitution," he said.

dollars to the Commonwealth.

Villagomez said he was also able to obtain the draft regulations for the Hawaiian monument, which he is currently distributing to members of the House and Senate.

Pew is now waiting on the White House to announce whether federal officials will conduct a preliminary assessment on the ecosystem at the proposed monument site.

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of the Pew Charitable Trust recently returned from a trip to Hawaii to gather information they hope will better inform the community about the proposed Mariana Trench National Monument in the Commonwealth's northern waters.

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Pew reps learn about Hawaiian monuments

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'Vexatious litigant' prevails in his 9th Circuit appeal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has reversed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's decision not to entertain the merits of "vexatious litigant" John Sablan Pangelinan's motion that challenged his detention in Seattle, Washington.

Three judges in the 9th Circuit ruled that, upon review of the record, the opening brief, and the May 19, 2008, letter from the U.S. Attorney, "the court summarily reverses and remands this appeal to the district court."

The judges cited a previous Ninth Circuit decision stating that an individual subject to supervised release is in custody for purposes of *habeas corpus* petitions.

In a two-page memorandum, the judges denied all pending motions being moot. No further discussion was indicated.

The judges said the panel finds this case suitable for decision without oral argument.

According to court records, in September 2006 the federal court convicted Pangelinan of two counts of obstruction of a court order following a jury trial in connection with his letters to the editor

published in local newspapers.

In January 2007, the federal court sentenced Pangelinan to one year in jail. In addition, he was sentenced to supervised release for one year following the completion of his jail term.

Pangelinan was then detained at the Federal Bureau of Prisons near Seattle, Washington. He appealed his conviction to the 9th Circuit.

While his scheduled release from jail was Sept. 16, 2007, he remained physically incarcerated because he refused to execute certain documents relating to the payments of fines and supervised release as mandated by the federal court in its sentencing order.

On Oct. 11, 2007, the 9th Circuit reversed the conviction on one count and affirmed the conviction on the second count.

While still in federal prison on Oct. 25, 2007 Pangelinan challenged his detention by filing his petition to vacate, set aside, or correct his criminal sentence.

Four days later, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman denied as moot Pangelinan's motion because he was no longer "in custody" for "reasons directly related to his criminal sentence."

On Nov. 23, 2007, Pangelinan filed

as second petition. At the time, he remained incarcerated at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

On Dec. 3, 2007, Wiseman dismissed the second appeal on the grounds that this was a second or successive petition.

Pangelinan, through court-appointed counsel Steven P. Pixley, appealed to the 9th Circuit Wiseman's decisions. Pixley asked the court to reverse the judge's dismissal of his client's *habeas corpus* petitions.

The lawyer raised the issue whether the federal court erred when it declined to entertain the merits of Pangelinan's motion on grounds that he was no longer in custody.

The other issue was whether the federal court erred when it construed and dismissed Pangelinan's second appeal as an unauthorized or successive motion.

On Jan. 28, 2008, the 9th Circuit granted Pangelinan's certificate of appealability with respect to the issues he presented.

Pangelinan was ultimately released from federal prison in January 2008.

In Pangelinan's opening brief filed in April 2008, Pixley asserted that his client was in custody when the federal court denied his first *habeas corpus* petition.

Pixley said his client's active prison term may have expired when he filed his petition but he remained incarcerated as a direct result of the criminal sentence imposed by the federal court.

"Indeed, Pangelinan remained physically incarcerated and he was subject to supervised release pursuant to the terms and conditions of the District Court sentence," the lawyer said, adding that his client was therefore a "prisoner in custody" within the meaning of the *habeas corpus* statute.

With respect to the second petition, Pixley said the district court should not have held that Pangelinan's Nov. 23, 2007, filing was a second or successive *habeas corpus* petition.

"A challenge to the District Court's previous dismissal should not be deemed a 'second or successive' petition," Pixley added.

ENVIRONMENTAL

From Page 2

the conference, the Commonwealth is likely to see many more environmental and societal impacts for which it must prepare.

"It will affect our entire way of life because we're looking at an influx in a short period of time of a large number of people and looking at the construction of many quasi-permanent facilities," Joyner said. "We're looking at impacts on coral reefs and erosion, water quality, wastewater, solid waste. These impact our islands and it's the entire CNMI, not just Saipan."

As a further example, Joyner noted the presence of more military personnel could prompt a need for added police department and hospital resources. However, local environmen-

tal regulators are already prepared for the buildup.

"We have anticipated this event," he said.

Moreover, Joyner added that the CNMI has managed to become a key voice in the effort to work with Defense Department officials ahead of the buildup and has developed a strong relationship with the military.

"This indicates a transformation in the way the Department of Defense operates with non-military communities," Joyner said. "In this instance, they are inviting nonmilitary people to work with them...in formulating plans and implementing plans. It's a partnering."

On Tuesday, the talks focused on the real estate agreements, master planning documents and developments at local ports necessary for the military relocation to begin. Today, JGPO staff and local officials will visit Tinian.

BID

From Page 1

tive begun by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, would transform an historic roundhouse near the Chalan Kanoa post office into the "First Leadership Memorial Courtyard," according to a July 29 letter sent by Antonia Tudela, chairwoman of the council, to government officials praising the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' help in

surveying the site.

The proposed project comes as the council is developing a plan to revitalize the Chalan Kanoa neighborhood, according to council adviser William Torres, who noted the area is considered the ancient capitol of Saipan and that the roundhouse itself once served as a focal point for the island's cultural and political life.

"In the distant past, the roundhouse was a very popular gathering place, whether it was for markets for political debates," Torres said in an interview

Wednesday. "This project is history in the remaking."

Now that the government survey of the site is complete—a key step for the council's effort to win an approval from the Department of Public Lands for the project to move forward—the process of designing and planning the monument can begin, Tudela writes. The council hopes to have an official designation from DPL giving them the go-ahead sometime next month, she says.

Given that the council has yet to

design the monument, Torres noted it has yet to formulate any funding plans or an assessment of the project's costs. However, the council later this week is meeting to "brainstorm ideas on how to conceptualize the monument in order to reflect its history."

The monument site is a key historical landmark and will remain open to the public under the council's care, according to a previous June 17 letter Tudela sent to DLNR.

The roundhouse "has served as a

place of fellowship gathering and has served for and catered to different public functions over the years, including political assembly and campaigns," Tudela writes. "It is this aspect of history that has significant relevance to our political development as an island nation that makes this endeavor important to the people of Saipan, and which the council would like to dedicate, preserve, protect and enhance whatever is left of the facility for a memorial display of local leadership."

DOC

From Page 1

more officers are required. The shortage has come about after a seeming mass exodus from Corrections that has left the department short-handed.

"We hope to get the concurrence of the governor to allow us to get additional officers on board because we have several vacancies that need to be

replaced," Tenorio said.

Within two months of Fitial flashing the green light to fill the vacancies, the department can begin its training academy, the commissioner said.

"All it takes is a matter of making the announcement, setting it up for advertisement. Once they apply we will conduct our interviews, and start [the hiring process]" Tenorio said.

All adult inmates had been moved to

the new prison by July 10 this year. The transfer has increased the square-footage of the prison, since it now sits on over 100,000 square feet of land, and has left the department with a notable manpower shortage.

Six Corrections officers recently resigned and two more, both members U.S. military reservists, were deployed to active duty and training. The department currently employs 85 to 87 corrections officers.

Correction officers work in three shifts. Twenty-two officers are required for a shift, making for a total of 66. Ten more officers are assigned to the administration office and to fulfill other duties.

Other officers are assigned to special escorts, court runs, hospital runs and special projects that are deemed necessary by the Governor's Office.

The new prison opened in February

and was built at a cost of \$20.9 million. The CNMI was forced to construct the building under a consent decree signed with the U.S. Department of Justice after DOJ saw the deplorable conditions at the old prison.

During the opening, Tenorio underscored the importance of meeting the new prison's personnel needs pursuant to the consent decree requirements.

The new prison can house as many 396 detainees.

PRIVATIZATION

From Page 1

The House of Representatives voted 16-3 yesterday to give final legislative approval of the power privatization bill. The measure requires the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to sell its power system for at least \$250 million

through a bid process. It also restores the CUC board of directors, which was abolished when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reorganized the corporation in 2006.

The bill will become law once approved by the governor.

The passage of the bill comes amid CUC's reported plan to seek proposals from private firms interested in running Saipan's main power plant and selling

energy back to the utility. CUC executive director Antonio Muna recently told lawmakers that CUC plans to get the "request for proposals" within the next six months.

Proponents of the bill want CUC to do away with the RFP process because it "injects into the process an unacceptable element of subjectivity and as a result participants in the process lack

confidence in it and tend to file protests against the content of the requests or the procedures for evaluating them."

The bill also provides an expedited timeline for the resolution of any possible bidder protest. Under the proposed legislation, a bidder must file the protest within 10 days of knowing of CUC's decision. CUC will then have 10 days to respond in writing to the protest.

The Office of the Public Auditor, which normally decides procurement appeals, is left out of the process. Instead, CUC's final procurement decision will be subject to review by the Public Utilities Commission. An appeal of the PUC's action may be filed with the courts, which also will be required to review the appeal on an expedited basis.

CUC

From Page 1

The governor's order amends another executive order issued only last Friday, July 25, 2008. In the previous order, Fitial sought to remove a requirement for any CUC debt over \$500,000 to be approved by law and thus allow CUC to borrow an unlimited amount of money without going through the legislative process. The new version raises the cap to \$5 million, instead of removing it altogether.

The amended version of the executive order also deletes a clause that would have allowed the plan to go into effect as soon as approved by one house of the Legislature. The removal of that clause makes the executive order compliant with the Constitution.

Under the Constitution, the Senate and the House of Representatives have 60 days to amend or modify an executive order. If no action is taken within 60 days, the executive order becomes law.

The House of Representatives referred the executive order to the House

Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for further study. The House made this decision after members raised concerns about the intent of the executive order.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider criticized the administration for not providing specific justification for raising the debt ceiling. "This order is too ambiguous. What exactly are we trying to get a loan for—operations or capital improvement? We don't know," he said.

The Constitution prohibits any government agency from borrowing money for operations. However, there is an

unresolved legal question as to whether this ban applies to CUC. The Attorney General's Office has argued that CUC is not a government agency.

Rep. Victor Hocog questioned the need to borrow money for CUC, now that a law has been passed to earmark \$3.4 million to the utility. Hocog, who sponsored the measure, said the Marianas Public Land Trust, the source of the earmarked funds, has offered assurance that the money will be available.

Asked about the purpose of the CUC borrowing plan, Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said, "CUC still

has a severe cash flow problem and the Governor wishes to provide CUC with more tools and options to surmount its enormous financial challenges. Financial leverage is a tool used by many businesses and corporations and it should not be denied CUC if it will be used responsibly."

Reyes added that the administration plans to discuss with the Legislature other options for CUC. He said the governor has not ruled out financing from Independence Bank, a Rhode Island-based bank that offers federal government-backed loan programs.

Sanpo-En group offers prayers at Banzai Cliff



Advanced happy birthday to Kyle Jude A. Rekemesik, who is turning 6 on Aug. 1, 2008. Enjoy your special day and we wish you more birthdays to come. From your godsister and godbrother, Melia and Evan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Thirty Japanese students from Osaka, Kyushu, Nagano, and Tokyo who are part of the annual cultural exchange summer program, together with Buddhist priest Kayaki Kansho, offer incense and prayers for the war victims during the 30th Anniversary of Sanpo-en memorial ceremony at the Sanpo-en Peace Monument at Banzai Cliff on Marpi yesterday.

About 50 members and volunteers for the Japanese Sanpo-En group gathered yesterday for a memorial service led by priest Kansho Kayaki at Banzai Cliff.

After 15 to 20 minutes of prayer, a group of children concluded the ceremony by lighting incense.

Earlier that day, the group visited the Governor's Office, as well as war landmarks in Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Last Command Post and the airport bunker.

The group arrived Tuesday and will depart Monday.

"This is their 30th year anniversary to visit Saipan, and I am a volunteer for the Saipan

Mayor's Office whenever children of the CNMI will visit the Sanpo-En group in Japan," said Sachiko Adachi.

Adachi has been to Japan and has visited the Sanpo-En group.

Today the group will make paper lanterns at the Marianas High School gymnasium and float the lanterns in another ceremony later in the day.

On Friday night and Saturday the group will stay with local families to better experience the local culture.

The group currently resides at Hopwood Jr. High School.

"For Saipan, this year is our 25th anniversary to visit Japan Sanpo-En group," added Adachi. (Jacqueline Dela Cruz)



Happy birthday greetings go out to both Melia Ha'lani B. Pua, right, who is celebrating her first birthday today, July 31, 2008, and to her dad, Hans Pua, left, whose birthday will be on Aug. 2, 2008. We love you and wish you both a very special day. From Mel and Evan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Best wishes and congratulations from the family and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Maria Haun for renewing their vows at the San Jose Church on Tinian in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



THANK YOU

The Division of Land Registration & Survey under the Department of Lands & Natural Resources extends its gratitude and appreciation to the Workforce Investment trainees for the great job done during their six-week Summer Training at the division. The three trainees were placed alongside the Survey Section and the Records Section, providing the public with vital information concerning their properties, from maps to obtaining documents on their lands and so forth. In photo, from left, are Alfred Demapan, Rick Santos, and Bradley Gomez after receiving their certificate of appreciation from the division. At right is Surveyor III Efrain I. DLGuerrero; seated is Director Joaquin B. Songsong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SIZZLING DEALS

July 15 - July 31, 2008

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GUALO RAI • MITA TRAVEL, GARAPAN

New 30-day deadline for alien workers clarified

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor's 30-day deadline for alien workers to find employment has been clarified as a period in which the prospective employee is expected to attain a form expressing the employer's intention to hire him or her.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody, in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said if a guest worker finds a new employer to complete the employer intent form within the 30-day period, a complete application could be filed later.

Cody said he is aware of the concerns of foreign workers

who believe that 30 days is not enough time to find a job.

"I certainly understand their feeling that 30 days is not a great amount of time. Keep in mind, though, that you don't have to have the complete application ready to be filed in 30 days," he said.

Labor used to have a system that gave employers and workers 45 days to file complete applications. The system caused filing difficulties.

Cody said if there is any good news for the workers under the new system, it is that the 30-day deadline is not a deadline to file a complete application.

"It is just to find an employer who will commit to hire alien workers sufficiently so that they

will sign the employer intent form," he said.

After the worker presents an employer intent form to Labor within the 30-day period, they are typically told to return to the Labor Hearing Office in about

three weeks, he said.

Cody said Labor assumes, however, that the employment is a job that has been posted on Labor's website and is thus not a houseworker position.

"The non-houseworkers are

given a date to come back on a Wednesday to the hearing office, which is usually three weeks later. And that is to give enough time for the 14-day posting of the job vacancy announcement," he said.

Cody stressed that employers who sign the employer intent form but do not post the job on Labor's website would cause filing difficulties and delay the submission of the employee's complete application.

High school students explore university life

Nine high school students recently got a taste of university life in Guam as part of the Summer Bridge Program offered by the Northern Marianas College's Educational Talent Search Program. The Summer Bridge Program prepares students for college success by exposing them to life away from home and the realities of transferring to an off-island four-year university.

During their six-day trip from July 19 to 24, the students visited the University of Guam, where they were given tours of and presentations on the departments of the institution. At UOG, the students participated in a scavenger hunt in which they matched each department with its responsibilities.

"All of the students were able to walk away from the program

with a better understanding of what's in store when they transfer to a four-year university," said Joan Dubrall, ETS advisement coordinator. "They are now focused on what preparations they must make before their transition to college."

ETS director Jeanette Villagomez and ETS administrative manager Georgia Salas also accompanied the students.

The college's Educational Talent Search is a program that identifies and assists individuals

ages 11 and above who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to the postsecondary school of their choice.

Students who want to enroll in the ETS program can visit the ETS office in Building I on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 ext. 1312 for more information. (NMC)

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Sunday August 31st

- ♦ Main event resumes at 2:00pm
- ♦ Continues until last man standing
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PHASE TWO: Every Saturday night from 8:00pm
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- ♦ Freeroll event is open to participants who are fully paid by 11:00am 08/30/08. Prize includes three nights deluxe accommodation, breakfast for two and US\$200.00 cash.. Conditions apply.
- ♦ Please note, accommodation is not included with entry fee.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College Educational Talent Search and Guam Upward Bound students take time to pose with Donnie Lizama of Project Aim.

'Language needs protection'

The Chamorro language needs to be protected, not just preserved, Office of Aging Director Howard Macaranas said.

"To preserve is to just have it there," Macaranas said. The language needs to be used regularly so it is not lost, he added.

"If we don't do something now and make people realize we need to do something, we might not have it," Macaranas said.

He said many people are aware the language is fading but are not doing anything to fix it.

"Everybody knows it's a future problem, but it's just in the back of their mind," he said. "Even me, when I was younger, I didn't care if I spoke Chamorro."

Some people speak English because it is convenient, while others are ashamed to speak Chamorro, he said.

"We have to take all those things and tell people there is nothing wrong" with speaking the language," he added.

Macaranas is beginning preparations for the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference Sept. 26 and 27 at the Saipan World Resort. This is the island's first time to host the event. Guam and Rota have hosted the event in the past, and Tinian will be the site for the conference next year.

The *man'amko* recently donated \$100 to go toward the \$1,200 needed to cover the event's costs. (Kristi Eaton)

Peace ceremony looking for a few 'do-gooders'

Organizers of the 6th Annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony launched their Do-gooder t-shirt project on Saipan by delivering the order of the t-shirt to the president and Board of Regents at the Northern Marianas College, PDI, and members of the CNMI Legislature.

A special black t-shirt featuring a peace symbol with angel wings was designed by this year's ceremony organizers as part of a community based effort to raise awareness for world peace and nuclear nonproliferation.

The Do-gooder t-shirts come with special instructions that encourage individuals to do good deeds within their

communities while wearing the special t-shirts.

"We ask that people add the t-shirt into their wardrobe, and ask that they make the utmost effort in contributing positively to the community every time they wear the shirts. Perhaps we can work toward a peaceful world by first striving for a better and more peaceful community. In the aggregate, even small contributions from many individuals can result in great changes," said James Mendiola Jr., one of the organizers of this year's peace ceremony.

Organizers delivered the

first t-shirts to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and the NMC Regents during a special morning meeting at the NMC campus on Saipan.

The second batch of Do-gooder t-shirts were then delivered to Yoichi Matsumura, general manager of Pacific Development Inc. PDI was selected as one of the first recipients of the peace t-shirts because of its longtime support of peace activities on Tinian such as the annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony.

The Do-gooder t-shirts were also delivered to House Speaker

Arnold I. Palacios and House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho at the CNMI Legislature.

Do-gooder t-shirts are being sold by the Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony for

\$12 each, with proceeds going toward the purchase of more t-shirts and the maintenance and development of the Children's Peace Monument on Tinian. More information on the 6th

Annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony on Aug. 6, 2008 or the Do-gooder t-shirt project can be found at www.tinianpeaceceremony.worldispnetwork.com. (PR)

ON THE NET

www.tinianpeaceceremony.worldispnetwork.com.

DUI checkpoints tomorrow, Sat.

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety/DUI checkpoints tomorrow and on Saturday.

On Aug. 1, 2008, the first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Minatchom Atdao. This operation will start around 8pm and will end at about 9:15pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by the Sherwin-Williams Building. This will start around 10pm and end at 11:1pm.

On Aug. 2, 2008, the first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose building. It will start around 7:30pm and will end at 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road

DEQ hosting storage tank meetings

The Division of Environmental Quality is asking the public to attend a series of meetings across the CNMI to learn more about historical land use and underground storage tanks on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and ultimately close them in an environmentally friendly manner.

DEQ is conducting a site survey on the three islands to identify locations of tanks that may be contaminated or have possible leaks. The department is seeking also to gather information from the public about potential storage tanks and land use storage tanks.

The department is looking for sites of fuel dispensing facilities or former gasoline stations. The sites may have been abandoned or redeveloped years ago.

Duenas & Associates, Inc. will conduct the survey.

The meetings are as followed:

■ Saipan-Monday at 11a.m. in the Office on Aging Conference room

■ Tinian-Thursday, Aug. 7, at 11a.m. in the Office of the Mayor or Conference room

■ Rota-Friday, Aug. 8, at 11a.m. in the Office of the Mayor Conference room (Kristi Eaton)

in Garapan by the Horizon Building. This will begin around 10pm and will end at about 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle

occupants are protected.

Traffic officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Juan C. Mendiola or Sgt. Jerry Ayuyu at 664-9085. (DPS)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, James M. Mendiola Jr., House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, and Fred Guerrero.

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Students can apply for scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business invite students to apply for the 2008 First Hawaiian Bank Guam Business Businesswoman of the Year scholarships for the Fall 2008 Semester.

The program has been expanded this year to provide student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Mariana Islands: The University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

Application forms are available from the financial aid offices of all three institutions, at the First Hawaiian Bank Branches and the Guam Business Office.

The deadline for completed applications is August 31.

The scholarships are intended to “promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers,” and are open to both full-time and part-time students. The scholarships will be awarded based on merit, eligibility, a written essay and financial need. Applicants should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, Senior Vice President and Region Manager for Guam and the CNMI for First Hawaiian Bank, says, “We are delighted to be able to open the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship

Program to even more students in the Marianas, thanks to the generous support from the business community.”

Maureen N. Maratita, publisher of Glimpses Publications, said, “This Scholarship Program is designed to be unique in many ways, and also has the support of community organizations such as the Guam Council of Women’s Clubs, the Korean Women’s Association, the Japan Women’s Club and Soroptimist International of the Marianas.”

Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2008 Businesswoman of the Year Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 26. The 2008

Businesswoman of the Year *Maga’haga* award recipient was Julienne Duenas, owner and physical therapist of SOAR Physical Therapy. (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

NMI students make it to EOU dean’s lists

LA GRANDE, Ore.—Eastern Oregon University has announced the Dean’s List recipients for its winter and spring terms.

The following EOU students from the CNMI qualified for the winter 2008 Dean’s List: Jeffrey Deleon Guerrero, Carmilynn Ogumoro, Rellani Ogumoro, Orrin Pharmin, and Ryan Vince Pangelinan. Rellani Ogumoro also qualified for the spring 2008 Dean’s List.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 graded coursework hours for the duration of the term.

Eastern Oregon University serves as an educational, cultural and scholarly center in La Grande, Oregon, connecting the rural regions of the state to a wider world. (EOU)

GCA parent orientation/open house Friday

Grace Christian Academy’s yearly parent orientation/open house will be held on Aug. 1, 2008, at 6pm in the school’s auditorium. Important information will be discussed during the orientation. It is vital that all parents attend this orientation, as it sets the tone of the students’ educational journey for the 2008 – 2009 school year. GCA’s first day of classes is Aug. 4.

For more information about Grace Christian Academy, call 322-3320/3850 or visit the school campus in Upper Navy Hill. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

July 31, 2000

GOP weighs impact of election reform

The Republican Party will look into the impact of the new election reform bill now pending before Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on the forthcoming primary on the gubernatorial race, according to chairman Joseph C. Reyes. In particular, he said provisions allowing the Board of Elections to administer primaries are a big concern for the GOP. “The primary is a party matter. It should be left to the party to conduct that exercise,” the Republican chairman said Friday.

CDA steps up campaign to lure foreign investments

As the CNMI faces an apparent tug of war between whether prioritizing concerns by the federal government or addressing problems faced by the business community amid the recession, the Commonwealth Development Authority has positioned itself to aggressively promoting the islands as an ideal place for foreign investments. In the last three years, the commerce department disclosed foreign investors pumped only about \$3.5 million in fresh capital to the Northern Marianas economy through a variety of new business activities.

Greenpeace to visit Saipan

The Greenpeace flagship, Rainbow Warrior II, will be arriving on Saipan this week as part of the environmental organization’s continuing information campaign to assist Tanapag village which has been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl. “We want to make sure that the planned remediation in Tanapag will be done properly,” said Maureen Penjueli, toxics campaigner.

July 31, 2001

Three missing off Tinian

A 17-footer boat carrying at least six Chinese nationals capsized some two miles south off the Tinian harbor Sunday. Three of the passengers are still missing as of press time. Rescue operations conducted jointly by teams from the United States Coast Guard, the Emergency Management Office, the Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Customs, and the Department of Labor and Immigration proved futile yesterday to locate the three missing passengers, including two women.

Teno renews lobby firm contract

The Tenorio administration has decided to retain the services of Greenberg Traurig until September 30 this year to buttress the CNMI government’s efforts to block the passage of so-called anti-CNMI legislation at the US Congress. This comes in the wake of another resolution filed by Rep. George Miller at the US House of Representatives, which aims to implement mainland minimum wage and immigration requirements in the Commonwealth.

Local student is one of America’s ‘most gifted’

A Mount Carmel High School alumnus has been selected to grace the pages of a prestigious publication that features the country’s most gifted students. Saipan resident Bradley Matsuoto, a pre-medicine student at the Baylor University in Texas, was among the few chosen to be on the National Dean’s List, a publication that recognizes America’s best students.

July 31, 2002

Deficit threatens to escalate

Besides a severe cash-flow problem, the Babauta administration is also wrestling to contain a deficit that could go beyond \$18 million if the Legislature fails to find a way for it to spend beyond the \$197 million spending plan set for this year. To ensure that this does not happen, the administration, led by Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, met Monday afternoon with the House of Representatives to map out a plan of action to get around this \$197 million limit.

Where’s my rebate?

Hundreds of Northern Marianas residents aired their complaints yesterday over the continued delay of issuance and the alleged selective release of rebate checks and refunds. Phone calls swamped the Saipan Tribune office yesterday, with callers asking why several late filers have already received their rebate and refunds check ahead of individuals who had met the deadline set by the Department of Finance.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Alethea Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Published Notice of Deficiencies and Denials
with respect to Applications Filed with the Labor Department

On August 1, 2008, the Labor Division will begin publishing on the Labor Department’s website, www.marianaslabor.net, notices with respect to deficiencies in and denials of applications. The Labor Division will also post these notices on the bulletin boards at its offices in the Afetna Square building in San Antonio.

The Department is taking this step in part because of difficulties in the past when foreign national workers did not know that an employer’s application involving employment for them had been deficient or denied. This way, everyone involved will have access to the notice. In addition, the Department is operating under an austerity budget that requires it to use the most efficient legally permissible means possible to deliver notices.

All applicants are responsible for checking the website or the bulletin boards for actions taken on any pending application.

Applicants will have 15 days from the date of posting to cure deficiencies or to appeal denials.

If an applicant provides an e-mail address at the time of application, the Department’s automated processing system will automatically send an e-mail with respect to any deficiency or denial. The e-mail notice is a courtesy provided by the Department. Absence of an e-mail notice will not excuse any failure to cure a deficiency or to appeal a denial.



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LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Published Notice of
E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

Employment Services

employerservices@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

Labor Processing

laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

Labor Enforcement

laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Enforcement.

Administrative Hearing Office

laborearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.

Melvin and Principia Monkeya
P.O. Box 379
Tinian, MP 96950
Telephone No. 285-6394

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF)	FCD GU
THE APPOINTMENT OF)	CIVIL
MELVIN MONKEYA and)	ACTION
PRINCIPIA MONKEYA)	NO.
AS GUARDIAN OF THE)	08-0423
ESTATE OF THEALANIE)	
MAE MONKEYA and)	
KYLE MONKEYA)	NOTICE
Minor Children)	OF
)	HEARING
by)	
MELVIN I. MONKEYA)	
and PRINCIPIA C.)	
MONKEYA)	
Petitioner)	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Melvin I. Monkeya and Principia C. Monkeya Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 11 day of August, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court



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LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Requirements for Filing a Complete Application

The requirements of the Labor Department’s automated processing system necessitate that each application be complete when filed. However, applications need to be complete when filed only for Labor Department purposes, not for Immigration Division purposes. Applications can be supplemented when they reach the Immigration Division.

For Labor Department purposes, the following are NOT REQUIRED in order to have a complete application filed with Labor Processing:

- Health certification
- Police clearance
- Passport copy
- BGRT information

Employment Services may require the filing of BGRT information in connection with a job vacancy announcement and Labor Processing may request BGRT information when examining an application, but this information is not required to be filed in every case.

A completed Job Vacancy Announcement **IS REQUIRED** in order to have a complete application.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A deficit of discipline

The irresponsible borrowers and lenders who sparked the current economic downturn have something in common with the federal government: None of them can be trusted with a buck. And all Americans will ultimately pay the price for their financial recklessness.

An estimate released Monday by the White House placed next year's federal budget deficit at a record \$482 billion. As a percentage of the economy, it's still not as bad as the deficits from the 1980s and early 1990s, but that should comfort no one. Washington managed to climb out of that hole only after the government imposed a program of painful tax hikes, which combined with a fast-growing economy in the mid-1990s to produce federal surpluses in the closing years of the Clinton administration. That all ended with the election of George W. Bush.

The Bush administration tried to spin Monday's grim budget news as fallout from the economic stimulus package approved by a bipartisan congressional majority in February. The \$600-per-taxpayer rebate certainly didn't help, costing the Treasury \$168 billion, but it's by no means the source of the deficit problem. That goes back several years—to when Bush and a compliant Congress launched an invasion of Iraq costing hundreds of billions of dollars and, rather than raise taxes to pay for it, continued to cut them. The \$482-billion figure actually understates the size of the shortfall because it doesn't include \$80 billion in war costs. Washington's uncontrolled spending at the beginning of the decade made deficits almost inevitable, but the growth of the shortfall is being worsened by a troubled economy.

Americans' willingness to accept the war was enhanced by the fact that so few were asked to sacrifice anything to fight it, but the sacrifice wasn't avoided, only deferred. Excessive government debt is dangerous for the same reason that excessive personal debt is: An ever-increasing share of future budgets will be eaten up by interest payments, leaving less money for everything else, and when times get hard, the belt-tightening could become brutal.

The mortgage crisis taught financial institutions a tough lesson about undisciplined behavior, and the ones that survived are gradually putting their houses in order; we wish the same could be said for the government. Neither party's presumed presidential nominee has a realistic plan to curb the deficit. That's only to be expected during the campaign season, when vows of low taxes and rich entitlements are key to winning votes. The next president simply will not be able to deliver both, despite such claims.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Taking your pulse

We have been into exercise and fitness for many years, but after seven children and 23 years of marriage, the "battle of the bulge" sometimes scores a victory. This year, Janel made a commitment to shed some unwanted poundage through a concerted exercise and eating regime. When the Gold's Gym Body Success Challenge started, she gladly accepted the challenge and I became her coach.

In a typical business fashion, I created spreadsheets and researched Internet sites with calorie calculators that help quantify calorie input and output. Even with all the technology available to assist a fitness aficionado, the most basic component to monitor your exercise intensity is to take your pulse periodically to ensure that you are within certain parameters based on your age. There are numerous high-tech gadgets that can do this, but simply finding the pulse on your neck, counting the throbs for six seconds and multiplying by 10 will give you a rough estimate, plus or minus 5 beats per minute.

Once your pulse is determined, you can then accurately increase, decrease, or maintain your exercise intensity until you take your pulse again. Without knowing your pulse, you can only guess that your intensity level is correct.

In business, it is just as critical to monitor the pulse of your organization so you can make reliable and timely decisions. People issues are a constant dilemma that managers deal with, but many supervisors lack the experience or have been promoted without the proper training to know how to deal with their people when issues occur.

In many situations, managers are forced to deal with a major problem or a lawsuit that could have easily been avoided if a manager was regularly taking the pulse of the organization. The pulse may not be taken because the manager thinks things are fine and is unaware that a problem is brewing (oblivious), doesn't know what to do and hopes the issue is resolved without her intervention (ignorance), or simply doesn't care about the people issues and refuses to get involved (apathy).

I can tell you from past experience that some minor grievances may dissipate without dealing with them; however, all of them should be known and understood so the appropriate action or inaction can be taken. And this only happens if you regularly take the pulse of your company.

There are different ways you can do this, some informal and other formal. Regularly scheduled meetings with subordinates allow you to discuss matters that are on both of your minds. Some use an agenda to ensure that key points are covered in the meeting, while others leave the discussion open. Some managers require a periodic report to be sent that has specific topics to address. This is less personal, but it can give a supervisor a heads up on any pressing matters.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



An informal management technique that first came to public notice in the book, *In Search of Excellence*, was MBWA, or Management By Walking Around. This approach is simply described by its title, and it allows a manager to see everything that is going on by walking around the organization, and it allows him to listen directly to the employees at impromptu moments. It is especially effective in organizations with many management layers because it permits all employees direct access to the boss. It can also generate high levels of spontaneous, creative synergy through the exchange of ideas.

Some managers abdicate their pulse-taking responsibility through an "open door policy" that allows them to comfortably sit in their office waiting for people to come to them with issues. This sometimes happens, but a lot of employees will hesitate to see their boss because they don't want to be viewed as a troublemaker or they fear reprisal. Only after trust has been established will people feel free to walk through the open door and give you their pulse.

However you attempt to take the pulse of your organization, you must maintain confidentiality. One of my bosses had an open door policy he referred to as the "listening post". At a prescribed time and place, any worker could visit with him and air their grievances. He would then summarize, through email to everyone, each meeting he had with specific individuals and the actions taken. This was his attempt to be more open and let everyone know what was going on, but it violated the principle of trust and confidence. After a few more "listening post" sessions, he was bewildered as to why no one showed up anymore.

Managing people is probably the most challenging aspect of an organization. It comes with a new set of challenges everyday, leaving even the most experienced manager in a quandary at times on how to solve a situation; however, by keeping a pulse on the environment, managers can help detect early signs before a full blown problem occurs. Just as there are many ways to take a heart pulse, managers may choose one or all of the methods above to help keep a pulse on those being managed in their organization.

By the way, for those interested, Janel has already lost 20 pounds since she started seven weeks ago and is halfway to the final weigh-in at Gold's. Oops, gotta go now... it's time to take Janel's pulse.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

One world? He's on a different planet

Sen. Barack Obama said in an interview the day after his Berlin speech that it “allowed me to send a message to the American people that the judgments I have made and the judgments I will make are ones that are going to result in them being safer.”

If that is what the senator thought he was doing, he still has a lot to learn about both foreign policy and the views of the American people. Although well received in the Tiergarten, the Obama speech actually reveals an even more naive view of the world than we had previously been treated to in the United States. In addition, although most of the speech was substantively as content-free as his other campaign pronouncements, when substance did slip in, it was truly radical, from an American perspective.

These troubling comments were not widely reported in the generally adulatory media coverage given the speech, but they nonetheless deserve intense scrutiny. It remains to be seen whether these glimpses into Obama's thinking will have any impact on the presidential campaign, but clearly they were not casual remarks. This speech, intended to generate the enormous publicity it in fact received, reflects his campaign's carefully calibrated political thinking. Accordingly, there should be no evading the implications of his statements. Consider just the following two examples.

First, urging greater U.S.-European cooperation, Obama said, “The burdens of global citizenship continue to bind us together.” Having earlier proclaimed himself “a fellow citizen of the world” with his German hosts, Obama explained that the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Europe proved “that there is no challenge too great for a world that stands as one.”

Perhaps Obama needs a remedial course in Cold War history, but the Berlin Wall most certainly did not come down because “the world stood as one.” The wall fell because of a decades-long, existential struggle against one of the greatest totalitarian ideologies mankind has ever faced. It was a struggle in which strong and determined U.S. leadership was constantly questioned, both in Europe

and by substantial segments of the senator's own Democratic Party. In Germany in the later years of the Cold War, Ostpolitik -- “eastern politics,” a policy of rapprochement rather than resistance -- continuously risked a split in the Western alliance and might have allowed communism to survive. The U.S. president who made the final successful assault on communism, Ronald Reagan, was derided by many in Europe as not very bright, too unilateralist and too provocative.

But there are larger implications to Obama's rediscovery of the “one world” concept, first announced in the U.S. by Wendell Willkie, the failed Republican 1940 presidential nominee, and subsequently buried by the Cold War's realities.

The successes Obama refers to in his speech -- the defeat of Nazism, the Berlin airlift and the collapse of communism -- were all gained by strong alliances defeating determined opponents of freedom, not by “one-worldism.” Although the senator was trying to distinguish himself from perceptions of Bush administration policy within the Atlantic Alliance, he was in fact sketching out a post-alliance policy, perhaps one that would unfold in global organizations such as the United Nations. This is far-reaching indeed.

Second, Obama used the Berlin Wall metaphor to describe his foreign policy priorities as president: “The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand. The walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes; natives and immigrants; Christian and Muslim and Jew cannot stand. These now are the walls we must tear down.”

This is a confused, nearly incoherent compilation, to say the least, amalgamating tensions in the Atlantic Alliance with ancient historical conflicts. One hopes even Obama, inexperienced as he is, doesn't see all these “walls” as essentially the same in size and scope. But beyond the incoherence, there is a deeper problem, namely that “walls” exist not simply because of a lack of understanding about who is on the other side but because there are true differences in values and interests that lead to human conflict. The Berlin Wall itself was not built because of a failure of communication but because of

By **JOHN R. BOLTON**

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Bolton, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and the author of Surrender Is Not an Option.

the implacable hostility of communism toward freedom. The wall was a reflection of that reality, not an unfortunate mistake.

Tearing down the Berlin Wall was possible because one side —our side—defeated the other. Differences in levels of economic development, or the treatment of racial, immigration or religious questions, are not susceptible to the same analysis or solution. Even more basically, challenges to our very civilization, as the Cold War surely was, are not overcome by naively “tearing down walls” with our adversaries.

Throughout the Berlin speech, there were numerous policy pronouncements, all of them hazy and nonspecific, none of them new or different than what Obama has already said during the long American campaign. But the Berlin framework in which he wrapped these ideas for the first time is truly radical for a prospective American president. That he picked a foreign audience is perhaps not surprising, because they could be expected to welcome a less-assertive American view of its role in the world, at least at first glance. Even anti-American Europeans, however, are likely to regret a United States that sees itself as just one more nation in a “united” world.

The best we can hope for is that Obama's rhetoric was simply that, pandering to the audience before him, as politicians so often do. We shall see if this rhetoric follows him back to America, either because he continues to use it or because Sen. John McCain asks voters if this is really what they want from their next president.

The book on China

There's a lot of mindless chatter about China these days, and the fare on U.S. bookstore display tables doesn't do much to elevate the conversation. China is a fire-breathing dragon, the more alarmist writers declare, or a gold mine for entrepreneurs.

The best books on China portray a fascinating culture, alternately resilient and defensive, and unmistakably human. You may have to dig to find them, but these well-worn favorites are worth the hunt.

In *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, Jonathan D. Spence sketches early 20th-century Chinese history as seen through the eyes of the nation's intellectual elite, whose idealism found patches of sunlight before being crushed by the politics of the day. Spence is a masterly writer, and while any of his dozen volumes on China is worth reading, this is the one I always come back to.

Foreign correspondents who grapple with making China's myriad mysteries accessible to faraway readers often have book-length stories to tell by the end of their sojourns in the Middle Kingdom. Many are flash-in-the-pan, but a precious few, such as Theodore H. White's *Thunder Out of China* and Peter Hessler's *Oracle Bones*, manage to capture the mood of a specific time and place while also conveying the country's timeless character. My favorite is *Shark's Fins and Millet* by Ilona Ralf Sues, a Polish-born journalist who sashayed through China in the 1930s

and came up with an improbably cutting portrait featuring her encounters with Big-Eared Du, the king of Shanghai's gangsters, and Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

Chinese history has been darkened by periods of horror that today's readers can barely imagine. Bao Ruo-Wang's *Prisoner of Mao* is the harrowing account of an innocent man trapped in China's gulag from 1957 to 1964. He survives a famine (a Chinese labor camp is not a good place to be when people are starving) and psychological torture. Years later, living in Paris, he was able to render the viciousness of the communists' efforts to squeeze all the humanity out of their targets.

The man at the helm in those days, Mao Zedong, was China's most-published author, with millions of little red books to his name. But more than anything, he was a brilliant political infighter. *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*, by Li Zhisui, one of Mao's doctors, is an inside look at Communist Party politics and the chairman's manipulations. It opens with a hilarious account of backstage maneuvering over the handling of Mao's corpse and then goes back in time to recount decades of the Great Leader's devious backstabbing.

Chinese fiction is trickier. Because of China's complex literary tradition and heavily politicized culture, Chinese novels don't translate well. Many writers have to move overseas and

By **SETH FAISON**

Special to The Washington Post



Faison is the author of South of the Clouds: Exploring the Hidden Realms of China.

learn to write in a second language before they're able to develop an authentic voice. Ha Jin's *Waiting* is a deceptively simple novel that clears this hurdle. One exception to the “nothing translates” rule is *Playing for Thrills* by Wang Shuo, whose subversive and quirky take on Beijing's underground society is fast-moving and hysterical.

Sometimes an overlooked little novel is the one that resonates most. For me, that book is *The Maker of Heavenly Trousers*, by Daniele Vare, an Italian diplomat who lived in Beijing in the 1920s and '30s. His duties were light, apparently. His novel is a charming take on the complexity of Chinese society that has retained its essential truth. The Chinese have a saying for that—*cha bu duo*. But it doesn't translate well.

Letters to the Editor

Unresolved questions in executive order

To the 16th Legislature:

The Governor has issued an executive order allowing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to borrow more than \$500,000. Under the Governor's new order, CUC will be authorized to borrow money from any private or public source in the Commonwealth, the United States or any country and give security in connection to such borrowing.

Borrowing to pay other debts represents an unwise practice. Given the track record of CUC's repayment credibility, this is a serious concern. What are the risks? Do not allow this executive order to take full form until it is clarified further and other options are duly considered.

We do not believe that such an executive order is permissible under the CNMI Constitution. Though we recognize the danger of CUC's financial crisis, we must reiterate that further clarity and other options must be exhausted. Do the right thing and direct CUC to the right and proper path so that we may all live in peace in a safe environment that includes a stable, affordable utility rate.

Furthermore, we believe that federal intervention in the matter should be highly recommended and considered a priority. The involvement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is a step forward to the beginning of better accountability and increased responsibility of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s future management. Let us not forget that the Department of the Interior's Insular Affairs Office has infused millions and millions of dollars worth of funding toward the improvement of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s infrastructure and operations in terms of public power and water distribution, but that the funding disappeared as a result of the corporation's history of fiscal mismanagement and federal and local funding abuse.

Therefore, in the interest of the Commonwealth's suffering consumers, we humbly and respectfully ask that all of you turn to the Department of the Interior's Insular Affairs Office and work with them to find a solution to our power crisis. We must end all “state of emergency” declarations, as they represent solely the self-interest of

unqualified, uncertified and unprofessional contractors in the rehabilitation of our dilapidated engines in our power plants. We urge all of you to reflect on the Commonwealth Constitution, which states clearly in Article X, Sections 3 and 4:

“Public debt may not be authorized or incurred without the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house of the Legislature.”

“Public indebtedness other than bonds or other obligations of the government payable solely from the revenues derived from a public improvement or undertaking may not be authorized in excess of ten percent of the aggregate assessed valuation of the real property within the Commonwealth. Public indebtedness may not be authorized for operating expenses of the Commonwealth government or its political subdivisions.”






Gregorio Cruz Jr.

President, Taotao Tano

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲59 ▼51
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼74
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼85
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83 ▼76
London	Rain	▲79 ▼63
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲59 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼77
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼70
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼73
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼69
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲73 ▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67 ▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75
Tokyo	Showers	▲82 ▼74
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:17AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:09AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:54PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:11PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:10PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered near 7N132E. A trough extends northeastward from the low center to about 24N144E. Convergent southeast winds ahead of the trough and into the circulation and upper-level divergence are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line from 15N130E to 2N130E to 5N134E back to 15N130E and patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within a second area from 11N to 23N between 135E and 152E. The first area is west of Koror. The second area is north of Yap and includes the Marianas. Convergent southeast winds are producing spotty areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 11N between 140E and 160E around Chuuk and Pohnpei. Trade wind convergence is producing scattered showers in the vicinity of Majuro. An upper-level low is producing scattered showers from 19N to 25N from 170E to 180 northeast of Wake Island.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00AM	6:46 PM
Monday	6:00AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:21AM	5:50PM
Friday	5:27AM	6:42PM
Saturday	6:29AM	7:28PM
Sunday	7:27AM	8:09PM
Monday	7:27AM	8:09PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Oil dips below \$122 in Asia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices continued a 3-week slide on Wednesday in Asia as expectations that this year's surge in energy costs are undermining U.S. gasoline demand, sending crude below \$122 a barrel.

In another sign that high prices are curbing Americans' consumption for fuel, retail gas prices fell further below the \$4-a-gallon mark. The average price of a regular gas fell 1.7 cents to \$3.941, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Prices Information Service and Wright Express.

Investors expect more evidence of falling gasoline consumption when the U.S. Energy Department's Energy Information Administration releases its weekly oil inventory report later Wednesday, said Mark Pervan, a senior commodities strategist with ANZ Bank in Melbourne.

"People are looking closely at the deteriorating demand for petrol," Pervan said. "The market will probably fence-sit or position ahead of the DOE numbers."

Gasoline stocks were expected to rise by 400,000 barrels

in the petroleum supply report, according to the average of analysts' estimates in a survey by energy research firm Platts. The survey also showed that analysts projected crude oil inventories to fall by 1.3 million barrels.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell 29 cents to \$121.90 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract dropped \$2.54 to settle at \$122.19 a bar-

rel on Tuesday.

In London, September Brent crude was down 29 cents to \$122.42 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Crude futures have sharply fallen over the past 19 days. The price of oil has dropped in seven of the last 10 sessions, and is down about 15 percent from its peak above \$147 a barrel earlier this month. Prices remain about 65 percent higher than at this time last year.



Shell customer Larry Syres fills up his Smart car in Palo Alto, Calif., Monday, July 28, 2008. Syres says he fills up his 8.7 gallon gas tank and that he averages 42 miles per gallon. He says his car's top speed is 90 miles per hour.

Americans look for ray of hope in economic gloom

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans see a slice of sunlight for the economy, as a widely watched report Tuesday showed people are not as pessimistic about the future as they were a month ago.

The housing market is still falling, but so have gas prices—at least a little—and that was enough to spark a little hope amid the deepest economic gloom in 16 years.

But economists warn that the slight uptick, which reverses a six-month slide since January, is likely to be only temporary and doesn't signal the beginning of a rally.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index stands at 51.9 for July—about half of what it was a year ago and still the lowest since the index registered 54.6 in October 1992, when the economy was coming out of a recession.

But the reading was slightly higher than the revised 51.0 level for June and a bit better than the 50 economists expected. Still, economists were cautious.

"The rebate checks have just been spent," said Bernard Baumohl, managing director of The Economic Outlook Group. "This is hardly the backdrop normally associated with a rebound in consumer confidence. What we'll see at best is a bounce around at these low levels for the next six to nine months. We are not going to get an improvement unless we get an improvement in housing and the job market sectors."

In fact, Baumohl believes that the odds of a recession this year have increased, citing the fading benefits of the federal stimulus checks, deteriorating household wealth and the slowdown of foreign economies.

There was more bad news about housing Tuesday. Home prices tumbled by the steepest rate ever in May, according to a closely monitored index. Prices dropped by 15.8 percent, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller 20-city index. The narrower 10-city index plunged 16.9 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history.

Stocks, however, rebounded a day after their steep tumble, as investors latched on to a drop in oil prices and the rise in confidence. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 188 points.

Economists and investors closely monitor sentiment

since consumer spending represents about two-thirds of all economic activity. The tax rebates helped lift retail sales in May and June, but those benefits have faded, and analysts worry about whether shoppers will have extra money to spend on clothing and other nonessentials in the important back-to-school season.

Baumohl noted that while a slight decline in gas prices has a psychological impact on consumers, whether they will fall more is uncertain. The latest national survey shows gas prices have dropped a fraction below the \$4-dollar mark. The average price of regular gasoline at self-serve stations was \$3.996 a gallon Friday, according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations nationwide, released Sunday. Prices are at their lowest level since May 16, but the survey showed that the average U.S. price is \$1.11 higher than it was a year ago.

The Conference Board's Present Situation Index, which measures shoppers' current assessment of the economy, was virtually flat at 65.3, compared to 65.4 in June. But the Expectations Index, which measures their outlook over the next six months, increased a bit to 43.0 from 41.4.

"Consumers' assessment of current conditions was little changed, suggesting there has been no significant improvement, nor significant deterioration, in business or labor market conditions," said Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, in a statement.

She added, however, that while people remain grim about short-term prospects, the modest improvement in their outlook provides some glimmer of hope. The slight improvement in the outlook "bears careful watching over the next few months," she said.

Economists are also keeping watch on the job market, since job security is key to consumers' confidence and willingness to spend. Cautious employers, uncertain about the economy and their own prospects, have cut jobs each month so far this year. Economists are bracing for more job losses when the government releases the employment report for July on Friday.

The Consumer Confidence report—derived from responses received through July 22 of a representative sample of 5,000 U.S. households—also showed that consumers' worries about business conditions and jobs aren't going away.

Trade talks snafu deals blow to global economy

GENEVA (AP)—After coming tantalizingly close to a historic trade deal, World Trade Organization talks collapsed Tuesday in a dismaying blow to seven years of efforts to open up the global economy.

Once promised as a recipe for lifting millions of people out of poverty, the end to nine days of high-level talks left no new trade openings for farmers and manufacturers, no global economic boost and no

grand deal for Third World development.

It was by all accounts a disaster.



Mandelson

"This is a very painful failure and a real setback for the global economy when we really needed some good news," said Peter Mandelson, the European Union's trade commissioner.

His disappointment was shared by top negotiators from the United States, Brazil and India, who have played leading

roles since the World Trade Organization launched its current trade round in the Qatari capital of Doha in 2001.

While the talks have struggled before, this failure was perhaps the most devastating. Faced with global unrest from rising food prices, credit problems from shaky financial markets and the threat of economic downturn, negotiators hoped that a deal this week to open farm and industrial markets would go some way to alleviating these problems.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New arthritis drug gets approval recommendation

WASHINGTON (AP)—A government advisory panel Tuesday recommended approval of the drug Actemra, promoted as a new type of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, a painful and disabling swelling of the joints generally kept in check with medication. The Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc. drug is already being used in Japan, and the Food and Drug Administration must now decide whether to give its approval for patients in the United States. Actemra's effectiveness was not in dispute, but some of its side effects raised questions. Nonetheless, the vote was 10-1 in favor of approval, and the agency generally follows the recommendations of its advisors.

S&P: Home prices drop by record 15.8 pct. in May

NEW YORK (AP)—Home prices tumbled by the steepest rate ever in May, according to a closely watched housing index released Tuesday, as the housing slump deepened nationwide. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index dropped by 15.8 percent in May compared with a year ago, a record decline since its inception in

2000. The 10-city index plunged 16.9 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history. No city in the Case-Shiller 20-city index saw price gains in May, the second straight month that's happened. The monthly indices have not recorded an overall home price increase in any month since August 2006. Home values have fallen 18.4 percent since the 20-city index's peak in July 2006.

Stocks soar after another drop in oil prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street shot higher Tuesday, gaining back the previous session's sharp losses and then some, after a drop in oil prices and a rise in consumer confidence gave investors some hope for a letup in Americans' financial woes. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 266.48, or 2.39 percent, to 11,397.56. Broader stock indicators also climbed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 28.83, or 2.34 percent, to 1,263.20, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 55.40, or 2.45 percent, to 2,319.62. The Dow and the S&P are now less than 20 percent below their Oct. 9 record peaks—technically out of bear market territory. The Nasdaq is less than 19 percent below its Oct. 31 peak.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,009.600
Up 86.300
(+1.75%)

HONG KONG
22,716.40
Up 458.40
(+2.06%)

TOKYO
13,329.62
Up 170.17
(+1.29%)

MANILA
2,583.83
Up 57.79
(+2.29%)

SEOUL
1,577.76
Up 10.56
(+0.67%)

JAKARTA
2,278.6841
Up 3.008
(+0.13%)

K. LUMPUR
1,150.80
Down 3.29
(-0.29%)

SINGAPORE
2,918.08
Up 31.52
(+1.09%)

BANGKOK
676.05
Down 0.68
(-0.10%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,397.56
+266.48

NASDAQ
2,319.62
+55.40

S&P
1,263.19
+28.82

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0547
British Pound	0.5047
Canadian Dollar	1.0236
Chinese Renmbi	6.834
Euro	0.6417
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8034
Indian Rupee	42.475
Indonesian Rupiah	9115.5
Japanese Yen	108.025
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2625
New Zealand Dollar	1.3617
Philippine Peso	44.16
Singapore Dollar	1.3682
South Korean Won	1010.6
Swiss Franc	1.0455
Taiwan Dollar	30.464
Thailand Baht	33.49

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Ted Stevens indicted, longest-serving GOP senator

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Ted Stevens, the nation's longest-serving Republican senator and a major figure in Alaska politics since before statehood, was indicted Tuesday on seven felony counts of concealing more than a quarter of a million dollars in house renovations and gifts from a powerful oil contractor that lobbied him for government aid.

Stevens, 84, is the first sitting U.S. senator to face federal indictment since 1993. He declared, "I am innocent of these charges and intend to prove that."

He is accused of lying on his annual Senate financial disclosure reports between 1999 and 2006—an indictment that caps

a lengthy FBI investigation that has upended Alaska politics and brought unfavorable attention to both Stevens and his congressional colleague, GOP Rep. Don Young. Both are running for re-election this year.

Stevens' indictment further damages Republican prospects in the November election as Senate Democrats, who now enjoy a 51-49 majority, try to capture a filibuster-proof 60-vote majority. Stevens faces both Democratic and Republican challengers who are trying to capitalize on his legal woes.

The Justice Department ac-

cused Stevens of accepting expensive work on his home in Girdwood, Alaska, a ski resort town outside Anchorage, from oil services contractor VECO Corp. and its executives. VECO normally builds oil processing equipment and pipelines, but its employees helped do the work on Stevens' home.

Prosecutors said that work included a new first floor, garage, wraparound deck, plumbing and electrical wiring. He also is accused of accepting from VECO a Viking gas grill, furniture and tools, and of failing to report swapping an old

Ford for a new Land Rover to be driven by one of his children.

From May 1999 to August 2007, prosecutors said, the senator concealed "his continuing receipt of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of things of value from a private corporation."

Stevens said in a statement distributed by his office: "I have proudly served this nation and Alaska for over 50 years. My public service began when I served in World War II. It saddens me to learn that these charges have been brought against me. I have never knowingly submitted a false disclosure form required by law as a U.S. senator."



Stevens

Strong quake rattles buildings, nerves in S. Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The strongest earthquake to strike a populated area of Southern California in more than a decade rattled windows and chandeliers, made buildings sway and sent people running into the streets on Tuesday. But there were no immediate reports of serious injuries or major damage.

The 5.4-magnitude quake—considered moderate—was felt from Los Angeles to San Diego, and as far east as Las Vegas, 230 miles away. Nearly 30 aftershocks quickly followed, the largest estimated at 3.8.

The quake was centered 29 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles near Chino Hills, a San Bernardino County city of 80,000 built mostly in the early 1990s with the latest in earthquake-resistant technology.

Buildings swayed in downtown Los Angeles for several seconds, leading to the evacuation of some offices.

"I'm still shaking. My knees are wobbling. I thought the building might collapse," said Rosana Martinez, 50, an employee of California National Bank in downtown Los Angeles.

As strong as it felt, Tuesday's quake was far less powerful than the deadly magnitude-6.7 Northridge earthquake that topped bridges and buildings on Jan. 17,



Firefighters remove water and debris from the Macy's department store in Woodland Hills, Calif. on Tuesday July 30, 2008.

1994. That was the last damaging temblor in Southern California, though not the biggest. A 7.1 quake struck the desert in 1999.

"The most interesting thing to us about this earthquake so far is it is the first one we've had in a populated area for quite a long

time and people have forgotten what earthquakes feel like," said seismologist Kate Hutton at the U.S. Geological Survey office in Pasadena. "We should probably look at it as an earthquake drill. I mean it's a drill for the Big One that will be coming some day."

The 52-year-old truck driver was still a little stunned as he recounted his ordeal from his hospital bed Tuesday. He was rescued from Little Cottonwood Canyon, southeast of Salt Lake City and not far below the ski resorts of Alta and Snowbird.

"I know the area, and I knew how remote it was," said Ririe, still in obvious pain.

His voice was quiet and raspy, still strained from hours of yelling through the pitch darkness. Ririe choked up several times as he recalled the most frightening moments to a group of reporters.



Dean Ririe, 52, winces in pain as he lies in his hospital bed after being rescued from a frigid mountain creek Tuesday, July 29, 2008, in Murray, Utah.

Fisherman survives cold night stuck in Utah creek

MURRAY, Utah (AP)—Dean Ririe had a fish on the line, then made one wrong step that led to a terrifying night trapped up to his waist in a frigid mountain stream.

He wasn't sure if he'd drown or if the cold would get him first, but he was losing hope that anyone would hear his cries for help.

After he spent about 16 hours in numbingly cold 55-degree water, someone finally did: an 11-year-old camper looking for firewood. It took another 90 minutes to get him free of the rocks and flown to the hospital Monday morning.

McCain backs off his no-new-tax pledge

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate John McCain's signal that he may be open to a higher payroll tax for Social Security, despite previous vows not to raise taxes of any kind, is drawing sharp rebukes from conservatives.

McCain's shift has come in stages, catching some Republicans by surprise. Speaking with reporters on his campaign bus on July 9, he cited a need to shore up Social Security. "I cannot tell you what I would do, except to put everything on the table," he said.

He went a step farther Sunday on ABC's "This Week," in response to a question about payroll tax increases.

"There is nothing that's off the table. I have my positions, and I'll articulate them. But nothing's off the table," McCain said. "I don't want tax increases. But that doesn't mean that anything is off the table."

That comment drew a strong response from the Club for Growth, a Washington anti-tax group. McCain's comments, the group said in a letter to the Arizona senator, are "shocking because you have been adamant in your opposition to raising taxes under any circumstances."

During a town-hall meeting in Sparks, Nev., McCain insisted anew Tuesday that he would not raise taxes if elected.

He frequently has promised not to raise taxes.

At a July 7 town-hall meeting in Denver, he said voters faced a stark choice between him and Democrat Barack Obama.

"Sen. Obama will raise your taxes," McCain said. "I won't."

In a March 16 interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity, McCain said he would cut taxes where possible, and not raise them.

ACROSS THE NATION

Arrest made in slaying of pregnant N.C. soldier

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A Fort Bragg soldier was charged with first-degree murder Tuesday in the death of a pregnant colleague whose partially decomposed body was found in a motel bathtub in Fayetteville more than a month ago, police said. Edgar Patino, 27, of nearby Hope Mills, was arrested at his home without incident just after 8 p.m. in the death of Army Spc. Megan L. Touma, said Fayetteville police watch commander Lt. Lars Paul. Paul said Patino was stationed at Fort Bragg but couldn't provide his rank or unit. Touma, 23, was found dead June 21 at a Fayetteville motel after a maintenance supervisor smelled a foul odor coming from a room, which had been protected by a "Do Not Disturb" sign for four days. A dental specialist from Cold Spring, Ky., Touma was seven months pregnant and had recently arrived from a base in Germany.

Feds indict 3 in Wis. attack on US Forest Service

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Three environmental activists were indicted on charges that they helped vandalize a U.S. Forest Service research station in northern Wisconsin, prosecutors said Tuesday. A recently unsealed indictment said members of the Earth Liberation Front and Earth First damaged the property in Rhinelander in 2000 because they erroneously believed that scientists were performing genetic research on trees. Katherine Christianson of Santa Fe, N.M., Aaron Ellringer of Eau Claire, Wis., and Bryan Rivera of Olympia, Wash., were charged with conspiring to damage government property and damaging government property. They face up to 15 years in prison if convicted. Prosecutors said Christianson, Rivera and two others cut down 500 research trees and used spray paint and etching cream to vandalize government vehicles with ELF references, including: "ELF is watching the U.S. Forest Service." The indictment noted \$500,000 in damage. Ellringer was their driver, prosecutors said.

Mass. House votes to let out-of-state gays marry

BOSTON (AP)—The Massachusetts House voted Tuesday to repeal a 1913 law that had been used to block gay

marriages involving out-of-state couples, all but assuring that the state will allow same-sex couples to wed regardless of where they live. The 119-36 vote came after the state Senate approved the repeal earlier this month, and Gov. Deval Patrick has said he will sign the bill. The measure requires one more procedural vote in each chamber before it is to the governor. Massachusetts became the first state to allow gay marriage in 2004, but then Gov. Mitt Romney ordered city and town clerks to enforce the long-dormant 1913 law to bar out-of-state same-sex couples from marrying. The law prohibits couples from marrying if the unions would be illegal in their home states.

3 workers killed in explosion at Wis. paper mill

TOMAHAWK, Wis. (AP)—A storage tank explosion at a northern Wisconsin paper mill Tuesday killed three workers and injured a fourth, the company that owns the mill said. Packaging Corp. of America said in a news release that the three workers were fatally injured when a tank used to store recycled fiber exploded while they were performing maintenance on top of it. The injured worker was standing on a platform at a lower level of the tank when it exploded, the company said. The worker's condition was not immediately released. The cause of the explosion was not known and is under investigation, the company said.

L.A. blocks new fast-food outlets from poor areas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles City Council has approved a one-year moratorium on new fast-food restaurants in a low-income area of the city. The moratorium unanimously approved Tuesday is a bid to attract restaurants that offer healthier food choices to residents in a 32-square-mile area of South Los Angeles. Councilwoman Jan Perry says residents at five public meetings expressed concern with the proliferation of fast-food outlets in the community plagued by above-average rates of obesity. Nearly three-quarters of the restaurants in South L.A. are fast-food outlets. That's a higher percentage than other parts of the city but the restaurant industry says the moratorium won't help bring in alternatives.

Asia

‘Cockpit flight recording lost during Qantas mid-air crisis’

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Investigators will not be able to review the cockpit voice recording of a Qantas jet's midair crisis because it was overwritten as the crew made a harrowing emergency landing, an official said Tuesday.

The focus on what caused a hole in the plane's fuselage last Friday continues to narrow on a missing oxygen tank that appears to have burst while the plane was flying at 29,000 feet (8,800 meters) over the South China Sea, Neville Blyth, a senior

investigator from the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau, told a news conference.

"The explanation regarding the loss of the cylinder is the most probable," Blyth said, adding that the 44-pound (20-kilogram) green tank was stored adjacent to where the car-sized hole was made and close to where a valve was found in the passenger cabin, likely blown through a hole in the floor.

Nobody was hit by the valve or other fragments that tore through a cabin

section close to the crew's seats, which were unoccupied at the time, he said.

While tests still must be conducted on the debris at an Australian laboratory, "it's safe to say that those components are from the missing cylinder," he said.

A full search of the plane has yielded no trace of the missing cylinder, leading officials to conclude that it probably exited the plane through the fuselage.

With air rushing out of the hole, the pilots made a rapid descent, then an emer-

gency landing in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. The 747-400, with 345 passengers and a crew of 19, had been en route from London to Melbourne and had just made a stopover in Hong Kong.

The cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder arrived Monday in Canberra, where officials discovered that the period when the crew was dealing with massive depressurization had been recorded over, Blyth said. The device operates on a two-hour loop.

Police defuse 18 bombs in India market

AHMADABAD, India (AP)—Police defused 18 bombs found Tuesday near the main diamond markets in the city of Surat and issued a sketch of a young man believed to be linked to one of two explosives-filled cars discovered there.

The announcement came as authorities in a Mumbai suburb probed ties to a series of blasts over the weekend that killed 42 people and wounded 183 in Ahmadabad, about 175 miles north of Surat. An obscure Islamic militant

group claimed responsibility for the Ahmadabad attack.

"I request you not to go to crowded places unnecessarily," Surat Police Commissioner R.M.S. Brar told the public during a news conference, according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

Authorities said that four cars—two used in Saturday's Ahmadabad attack and the two found in Surat on Tuesday—were stolen in July from a

Mumbai suburb, Navi Mumbai.

"Once we find the people who stole the cars, it will give us further clues about the blasts," Navi Mumbai police chief Ram-rao Wagh told The Associated Press.

Police said they believe the bombers used Navi Mumbai as the headquarters to plan the attack because they believed their activities would likely go undetected in the nondescript suburb.

India has been hit repeatedly by bombings in recent years. Nearly all

have been blamed on Islamic militants who allegedly want to provoke violence between India's Hindu majority and Muslim minority, although officials rarely offer hard evidence implicating specific groups.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring state of Rajasthan, police defused three crude bombs hidden inside plastic containers in a village about 190 miles north of Jaipur, said Harilal Sharma, a local senior police official.

Militants capture 25 Pakistani security personnel

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Islamic militants seized a security post in Pakistan's troubled northwest Tuesday, capturing at least 25 police and troops in a raid that underscored the government's weak grip on territory near the Afghan border.

Extremists also killed two security officers elsewhere in the Swat Valley, a day after three intelligence agents died in an ambush in the same area in further blows to the hopes of Pakistani leaders that they can tame Islamic hard-liners through peace negotiations.

Tuesday's incidents came a day after Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani won praise from President Bush, whose administration is pressing Pakistan for tougher action against militants, as a reliable ally against terrorism.

Pakistani officials said the abducted security force was manning a post near Deolai village in Swat when it was surrounded by an unknown number of militants Tuesday morning.

Police said about 30 officers and paramilitary troops were taken away, while an army statement put the number at "as many as 25."

"All personnel manning the post were taken hostage and shifted to some unknown location," the army's statements said.

The army also reported that "miscreants" killed two security force members and wounded 14 as they went to remove a militant checkpoint in another area of the valley where three intelligence officers were killed by ambushers Monday.

Security forces struck back, killing two militants and capturing six in an operation Tuesday, it said.

The military blamed the flare-up on followers of Mullah Fazlullah, a pro-Taliban cleric who last year took control of large tracts of Swat until an army operation drove his fighters out.

A spokesman for Fazlullah, Bakht Ali Khan, claimed responsibility for both the kidnapping at the security post and the ambushing of the intelligence agents.

Internet sites still blocked for Olympic reporters



Two Chinese volunteers walk in the rain next to the National Olympic Stadium in Beijing Tuesday, July 29, 2008. The stadium, known as the Bird's Nest for its elaborate network of steel girders, will host the opening and closing ceremonies and athletics competitions, which open on Aug. 8.

BEIJING (AP)—Olympic organizers are backtracking on another promise about coverage of the Beijing Games, keeping in place blocks on Internet sites in the Main Press Center and venues where reporters will work.

The blocked sites will make it difficult for journalists to retrieve information, particularly on political and human rights stories the government dislikes. On Tuesday, sites such as Amnesty International or any search for a site with Tibet in the address could not be opened at the Main Press Center, which will house about 5,000 print journalists when the games open Aug. 8.

"This type of censorship would have been unthinkable in Athens, but China seems to have more formalities," said Mihai Mironica, a journalist with Pro-

TV in Romania. "If journalists cannot fully access the Internet here, it will definitely be a problem."

BEIJING (AP)—Environmental officials say their efforts are starting to clear the haze above Beijing, while strong wind and some rain have also raised hopes of blue skies when the Olympic Games start in just over a week.

The city has put in place a series of drastic pollution controls since July 20 that included pulling half the city's 3.3 million vehicles off the roads, halting most construction and closing some factories in the capital and surrounding provinces.

Winds and rain were a "major factor" in causing pollutants to dissipate, said spokeswoman Zhai Xi-

aohui with the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau.

The censored Internet is the latest broken promise on press freedoms. In bidding for the games seven years ago, Chinese officials said the media would have "complete freedom to report." And in April, Hein Verbruggen and Kevan Gosper—senior IOC members overseeing the games—said they'd received assurances from Chinese officials that Internet censorship would be lifted for journalists during the games.

China routinely blocks Internet access to its own citizens.

Gosper, however, issued a clarification Tuesday. He said the open Internet extended only to sites that related to "Olympic competitions."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japanese woman dies of quake injury

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese woman Tuesday became the first victim of a powerful earthquake that hit northern Japan last week when she died of injuries from the quake, local media said. The 64-year-old woman had suffered brain hemorrhaging after she fell from her hospital bed in the city of Iwaki during the earthquake, according to Japanese media reports. The earthquake, which had a magnitude of 6.8, struck early Thursday near the coast of Iwate, 280 miles northeast of Tokyo. Iwaki is in nearby Fukushima Prefecture. The quake injured at least 99 people, triggered landslides and cut power to thousands of homes.

Afghan govt detains critical talk show host

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan intelligence agents detained a TV talk show host critical of the government, the president's spokesman confirmed Tuesday, accusing private media of coming under the influence of foreign countries. The government said in a statement that Nasir Fayaz, who hosted a weekly show called "Truth," made baseless accusations against two ministers and called for his prosecution. "The Cabinet decided that such people, and any other persons who are working in the media and are making baseless accusations, should be prosecuted," the statement said. Humayun Hamidzada, the chief spokesman for President Hamid Karzai, confirmed that Fayaz was still being held Tuesday by the Afghan National Directorate of Security.

UN: N. Korea facing worst food crisis since 1990s

BEIJING (AP)—The U.N. food agency says flooding and poor harvests have created North Korea's worst food crisis since the 1990s and have put millions at risk. The World Food Program says North Korea's food shortage has been made worse by floods last year, followed by poor harvest. Jean-Pierre de Margerie, WFP's country director for North Korea, says, "Millions of vulnerable North Koreans are at risk of slipping toward precarious hunger levels." He says an international appeal for aid will be launched in the next two weeks.

Soldier dies after convoy attacked in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says one of its soldier died after being wounded when militants attacked his convoy in southern Afghanistan. The military alliance says the convoy was attacked in the southern Helmand province on Tuesday. It did not release the soldier's nationality. Afghanistan is facing a raging insurgency nearly seven years after the Taliban were ousted from power, and the country's south is the primary hub for the militancy. More than 2,700 people - mostly militants - have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an Associated Press tally of figures provided by Afghan and Western officials. Insurgent attacks have risen by 50 percent so far this year compared to 2007.

World

Karadzic being extradited; jet lands in Holland

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Authorities were extraditing ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to the U.N. war crimes tribunal to face genocide charges early Wednesday, an official with the Serb prosecutor's office said.

A business jet believed to be transporting Karadzic to the Netherlands landed at the Rotterdam airport Wednesday morning, AP Television News footage showed. The plane with Serbian government markings taxied into a hangar, out of view of reporters and television cameras before anyone disembarked.

Helicopters and cars were waiting to whisk Karadzic to a U.N. detention center near The Hague. He is expected to be summoned before a judge within a day or two and will be asked to plea to each of the 11 charges he faces, including genocide and conspiracy to commit genocide. He may postpone his plea for up to 30 days.

Earlier Wednesday, masked drivers in three vehicles with tinted windows sped to Belgrade's airport from the Serbian war crimes court where Karadzic had been held since his arrest July 21. An official of the prosecution office told The Associated Press that Karadzic was in one of the jeeps. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak to the media.

The Serbian government said in a statement issued early Wednesday that its justice ministry had issued a decree that



A plane believed to carry former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic arrives at Rotterdam Airport in the Netherlands, Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

7 Bosnian Serbs guilty of genocide in Srebrenica

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—The Bosnian war crimes court convicted seven Bosnian Serbs of genocide Tuesday in the 1995 massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica and handed down prison sentences ranging from 38 to 42 years. Four others were acquitted.

Issuing their first sentence related to Europe's worst massacre since World War II, judges at the war crimes court sent three of the former policemen to jail for 42 years, another three away for 40 years and one for 38 years.

The seven men were found guilty of killing more than 1,000 captured Bosnian Muslim men and boys after Bosnian Serb forces overran the eastern town of Srebrenica—a U.N.-protected enclave for civilians during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

The seven hunted down Muslims who tried to escape the Serb roundup. Many victims surrendered after being told they would be safe but instead about 1,000 were brought to a warehouse and killed inside by automatic rifles and hand grenades.

The Bosnian court said their crimes were part of a widespread, systematic attack against Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica, carried out by Serb forces "with a joint plan to annihilate" the group.

In all, about 8,000 Bosnian men and boys were slaughtered at Srebrenica, a massacre the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, has ruled was genocide.

Widows and mothers of the victims were in the courtroom when the verdict was read.

allowed his handover to the U.N. court.

Karadzic is accused by the tribunal of masterminding the 1995 slaughter of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the Bosnian city of Srebrenica, Europe's worst massacre since World War II. He is also charged with spearheading the three-year siege of Sarajevo that left 10,000 people dead.

Karadzic spent nearly 13 years on the run before being arrested last week in Belgrade, where he lived under the assumed identity of a health guru - sporting a long white beard and hair, and large glasses.

Despite the war crimes allegations, he is still revered by many as a wartime hero for helping to create the Bosnian Serb mini-state.

Hours earlier, a demonstration against Karadzic's extradition turned violent on its fringes as stone-throwing extremists clashed with police, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

While most of the 15,000 demonstrators sang nationalist songs and waved posters of their "Serb Hero," a few hundred hard-liners broke away from the gathering and threw rocks and burning flares at police in downtown Belgrade.

Later, police fired tear gas at large groups of protesters while pushing them from the square after the rally. Police blocked off several neighborhoods, stopping traffic and the passage of the demonstrators.

Iraq's rebuilding planned at nearly \$120 billion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iraq's coffers are bulging with oil money, yet some Baghdad residents go without electricity for much of the day and others get drinking water tainted with sewage.

"They don't need more money," said Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction. "But they are having a difficult time, apparently, spending the money that they have."

Bowen Wednesday is releasing his quarterly report to Congress on efforts to rebuild Iraq's shattered nation - a program now expected to spend \$117.79 billion.

Aided by money from a postwar record in oil production, Baghdad itself is now set to spend an amount almost equal to the U.S. share, the report says. That is, as of the end of the quarter



Security officers stand behind a car destroyed in a blast in Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, July 28, 2008. 25 people were killed and 185 wounded in Kirkuk Monday, when a blast tore through a crowd of Kurds

on June 30 the U.S. has appropriated \$50.46 billion, the Iraqis are contributing \$50.33 billion and international donors have pledged \$17 billion.

Bowen said that on a number of fronts, Iraq made progress in the last quarter toward standing on its own - a key to bringing home U.S. troops.

Amid improved security, the Iraq economy has continued to expand and essential services to residents have improved somewhat.

"But they remain uneven and are not adequate to meet current demand," the 270-page report said. "Improved security across the country has helped reduce attacks on oil pipelines, and the electricity sector's expanded operations and maintenance programs have helped increase production."

Iraq allowed to go to Beijing Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—The International Olympic Committee ruled Tuesday that Iraq could participate in the Beijing games, reversing itself after Baghdad pledged to ensure the independence of its national Olympics panel.

The decision followed last-minute talks between Iraqi officials and the IOC ahead of Wednesday's deadline to submit competitors' names for track and field events. The Olympics begin Aug. 8.

Iraq's National Olympic Committee was dissolved by the Baghdad government in May, prompting the IOC to suspend the Mideast country from the Olympics for political interference.

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil: DNA confirms body is ballooning priest

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—DNA tests confirmed that a body found off the coast of Brazil is that of a priest who disappeared while flying over the Atlantic buoyed by hundreds of brightly colored party balloons, authorities said Tuesday. The Rev. Adelir Antonio de Carli set off from the Brazilian port city of Parana-gua on April 20 strapped to 1,000 helium-filled balloons in an attempt to raise money to build a rest stop and worship center for truckers. But the 41-year-old Roman Catholic priest soon lost contact with his ground team, and the cluster of yellow, orange, pink and white balloons was found in the water a day later. Tugboat workers discovered a body off Rio de Janeiro in early July that authorities

believed belonged to the cleric. Medical examiner worker Rosane Alves said Tuesday that tests comparing DNA samples from de Carli's brother to the body confirmed their suspicions.

Blast rocks Hamas training camp in Gaza, 5 hurt

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—A huge blast rocked a training base run by the Islamic militant Hamas in southern Gaza late Tuesday, injuring at least five members of the group, witnesses and a health official said. Ambulances raced to the blast site—an evacuated Jewish settlement next to the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. It was not immediately known what caused the explosion. Neither Hamas nor the Israeli military had an immediate comment.

Dr. Moaiya Hassanain of the Palestinian Health Ministry said two of the five wounded were in critical condition. He said all five were Hamas militants. Witnesses said the blast caused heavy damage to the base, causing a fire that burned for an hour. They said a second, smaller blast was heard about 15 minutes after the first one. Hamas militants kept reporters away from the scene.

US-Iraq forces begin new offensive in Diyala

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S.-backed Iraqi troops sealed off Baqouba and staged house-to-house searches Tuesday as they began a new offensive in Diyala province in the latest bid to clear al-Qaida in Iraq from its last major belt near the capital. Iraqi security forces

hope to build on recent security successes elsewhere in a new test of the country's readiness to take over its own security and enable American troops to withdraw eventually. Only nine American troop deaths have been recorded in Iraq in July with only two days left, according to an Associated Press tally based on military figures. The July figures also include the recovery of the bodies of two U.S. soldiers, kidnapped last year, raising the official monthly toll to 11 as of Tuesday.

Mexico sees decline in migrant remittances

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Half-year figures are expected to show the first sustained decline on record in remittances sent home by Mexicans

working abroad, officials said. The downturn in U.S. housing construction and stepped-up immigration raids have made it tougher for migrants to find jobs, and less able to send money home. Mexico's Central Bank is scheduled to release figures on the remittance flow on Wednesday. Jesus Cervantes, director of economic measurement for Mexico's central bank, said remittances are expected to decline 1.5 percent to 2 percent for 2008 as a whole over the previous year. Cervantes said that would be the first such sustained drop since a reliable tally has been kept. Annual remittances nearly tripled from about US\$9 billion in 2001 to almost US\$24 billion in 2007, amid improved reporting methods and swelling immigration.

Environment

Internships allow the inexperienced to gain experience

By **DANIEL VILLEGAS**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

To me, internships are wonderful programs because they allow the inexperienced to catch a glimpse of the career field they are interested in, while also providing sufficient education for the intern to take part in the workforce.

My name is Daniel Villegas, and I am a summer intern at the Division of Environmental Quality. A couple of years ago, I started exploring the coral reefs at Obyan and Lau Lau through snorkeling, and it was then that I first realized that the ocean is like whole other world, and I loved what I saw; so when I read the advertisement for this internship in the newspaper, I knew that it was something I wanted to do, and that I would enjoy doing it. I quickly applied for this internship, and I felt both excited and privileged to learn that I had been accepted a couple of weeks afterwards. It felt exciting to know that I would be a part of the workforce, because I believe that the work done here at DEQ will positively benefit our environment and the community both now, and in the future.

My internship began June 9, just a little less than a month after all my classes ended at NMC. I was really looking forward to this internship, and when the big day finally came, I received a friendly welcome from everyone introduced to me.

From day one, my mentor/supervisor, Fran Castro, gave me my first project, along with an e-mail that explained what I would be doing, and what was expected of me.

At this current time, I have two main projects that I am working on. These projects are one (1) combining a series of outreach brochures into one booklet that explains the value of our coral reefs and how Nonpoint Source Pollution is the greatest threat to their health and wellbeing, and two (2) learning Arc Geographic Information System (Arc GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) skills, and then using them to map out water runoff and drainage into the ocean.

Combining the already existing brochures into one booklet was the first project given to me, and I would say that I am in that latter stages of this project, meaning that I have done the majority of the work, but there are a few things I need to do. Photoshop is the main tool I am using for this project, and when I was in the beginning stages of it, Photoshop was still new to me, so I took the time to explore and play around with the tools. Now I feel very comfortable using Photoshop. To explain more about this project, I have split it up into four parts:



Daniel Villegas interviews community residents about their Onsite Disposal System.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first step in this project was organizing the text of the booklet. I already had the information from the brochures, but I had to find a way to organize it in such a way that it flowed smoothly, and was sure to keep the readers attention. I did this by making an outline of all of the information I wanted to include in the booklet, and then simply arranged the text into an order that I felt would be easy for the reader to follow.

nal step, which has to do with getting the booklet looked at by those in the line of authority, and then making edits or corrections according to their comments and suggestions. I think that this step may also take more time and work, but I am confident that by the end of this project, I will have a finished booklet that I can take pride in having put together.

After about a week into my internship, Yubert M. Alepuyo,

use Arc GIS, next he showed me how to perform these steps on the program, and then he had me try it out for myself. I found this to be a very effective way of teaching, because I was able to learn the necessary GIS skills in just a couple of days (just within my first day of my training, Yubert taught me how to make maps on GIS, how to add tags and a legend to the map, he taught me how to use a GPS, and then he showed me how to enter the information from the GPS into Arc GIS).

Just recently, Yubert has taught me how to use a highly accurate GPS with the name Trimble GeoXT. He had previously taught his intern, Solomon Castro, how to use Trimble, so he had Solomon show me how it works. Once I had learned the basics, he took both Solomon and me out on the field to begin our project.

The purpose of our project is to pinpoint all of the storm water drainages along the coastline of Saipan that empty into the western lagoon. We gather the points using Trimble GPS, and while the Trimble gathers data from satellites, we look at the condition of the drainage site and document the effects of discharges within that drainage so that we can enter a tag on the Arc GIS map that explains the condition of the drainage site. We also take a camera with us so that we can tag a picture of the drainage site to the Arc GIS map.

The information we gather on this project will be useful, because it will help us evaluate what needs to be done at these drainage sites to ensure that our lagoon and coral reefs are not damaged by harmful debris and chemicals that often enter the ocean through these drainage sites. This information will also keep a record of all drainages so that none are forgotten about or

See **INTERNSHIPS** on Page 18



Daniel Villegas and Georgia Cabrera, another intern at DEQ, pose for the camera at the reef flat monitoring at Bird Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After getting the outline approved by my supervisor, I went on to the second step, which was designing a template for the booklet. I used the draw tool on Microsoft Word to make the template, and then transferred it over to Photoshop.

The third step actually took the longest, because I took one page at a time and entered in all of the text, pictures, and animation. I did all of this through Photoshop, and for each page, I did my best to arrange all of the materials into an attractive composition.

Now I am in the forth and fi-

Batteries: Yes, they can be recycled too!

You probably use many battery-operated gizmos and gadgets. Laptops, MP3 players, toys, cell phones – we use so many and after a while, the batteries wear out and you buy new ones.

What do you do with the old batteries? Tossing used batteries in trash is not good for the earth. Batteries are a unique product comprised of heavy metals which include nickel cadmium, alkaline, mercury, nickel metal hydride and lead acid, which can threaten our environment if not properly discarded or handled.

Improperly disposed batteries may produce the following potential problems or hazards:

Pollute our waters as the metals vaporize into the air when burned.

Contribute to heavy metals that potentially may leach from solid waste landfills.

Expose the environment and water to lead and acid.

Contain strong corrosive acids.

Cause burns or danger to eyes and skin.

There are, however, many ways to properly dispose of batteries, most of which depend on the type of batter you have.

PRIMARY, ONE-USE BATTERIES

Alkaline Batteries

This type of battery is one of the better choices for consumers. The batteries last longer, perform better at high and low temperatures and have a longer storage life. Alkaline batteries can be stored at room temperature for two years and retain 90 percent of their original capacities.

According to the EPA, potassium hydroxide, a strong alkali, is contained within the cells of alkaline batteries. The potassium hydroxide can leak out of the battery cell if alkaline batteries are damaged or mishandled, causing severe chemical burns if the substance comes into contact with your skin or eyes.



Carbon-Zinc Batteries

Carbon zincs have been almost entirely replaced by alkaline batteries. They don't do well in extreme temperatures; excessive heat drives out the moisture from the chemical mix in the cell and drastically low temperatures decrease the life of the battery.

These batteries are most commonly used in flashlights and products with intermittent use.

Lithium Manganese Batteries

This type of battery is most often found as a button cell or cylindrical. Lithium manganese batteries have a much better storage life than most batteries and can be stored for several years.

The button cell form of lithium manganese can be found in watches and pacemakers and most products with a slim profile. Products with other varieties of lithium manganese batteries include heavy-use flashlights, handheld video games, shavers and electric toothbrushes.



Zinc Air Batteries

Very similar to other button cell batteries (batteries that are small, round and thin-shaped like buttons) except for that unlike the self-containing button cells, zinc airs need oxygen from an external atmosphere in order to operate, eliminating the need for internal, often toxic, material. Prior to use, however, zinc-air batteries must not be exposed to outside air or they will self-discharge. Without this exposure, though, they have a very long shelf life. There are a number of different recycling methods in which the metal content (zinc) of these batteries, as well as carbon-zinc and alkaline batteries, can be reprocessed.



Silver Oxide Batteries

Silver oxide (silver-zinc) batteries are round and come in two types: sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide. Sodium hydroxides last about two to three years and are recommended for analog digital watches without backlights, while potassium hydroxides are a better option for LCD watches with backlights.



See **BATTERIES** on Page 18

Life & Style

Nancy Pelosi airs some clean laundry in 'Power'

By LIBBY COPELAND
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

In her new book "Know Your Power," Nancy Pelosi explores the route to becoming the first female speaker of the House, including growing up in Baltimore (where her father and brother both served as mayor), her years organizing in Democratic politics in California and her decision to run for Congress at 47.

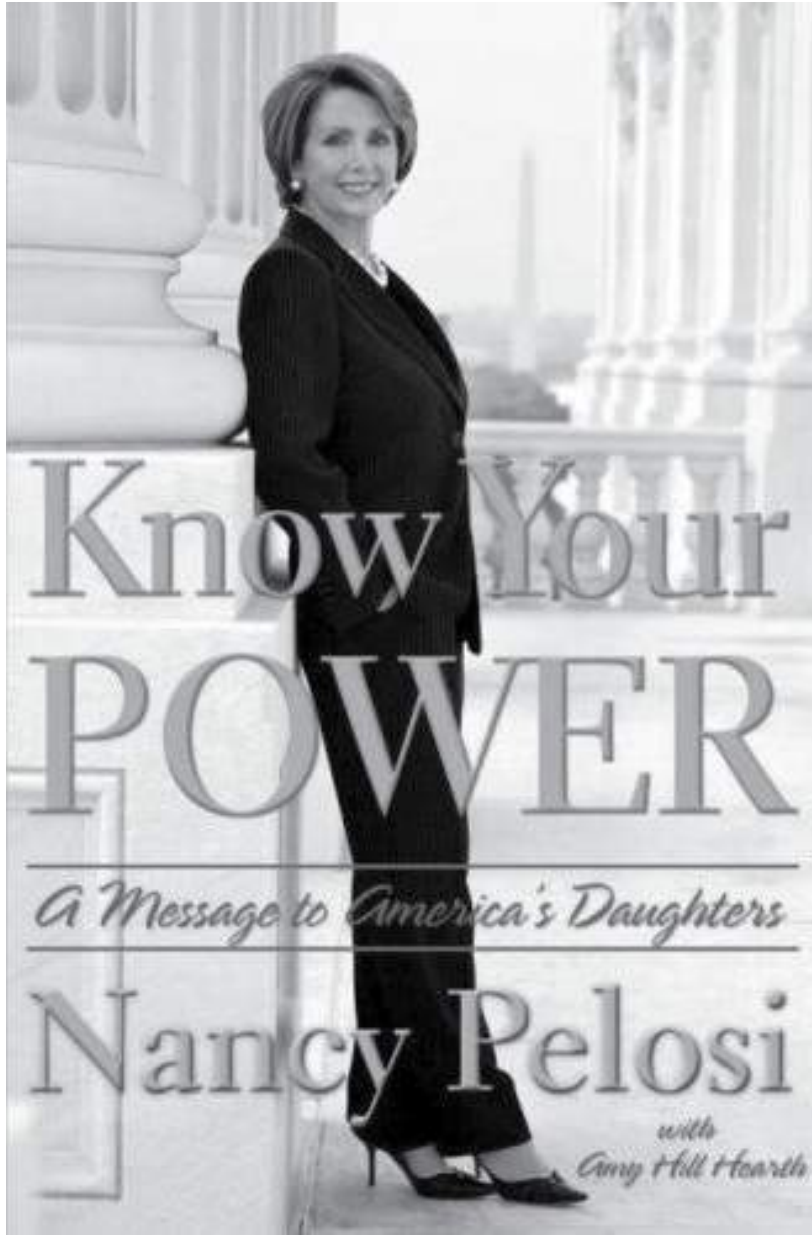
Q: You write about your friend, the late Sala Burton, congresswoman from California, who encouraged you to run for her seat in 1987 when she was on her deathbed. ... The way you write it very much makes it sound like this was something that hadn't crossed your mind before.

A: Never crossed my mind. ... I loved public policy and politics, enjoyed it very much. But I enjoyed the part that I played, which was as a volunteer, as the chair of the California Democratic Party. I had five children; they were then all going off to college. I had one daughter at home.

Q: You mentioned what your daughter said.

A: I was going to be away from home. ... Monday through Thursday was usually the routine then. I'm a mom, so this would be a departure for me to leave home. So when I presented it to her I said, "Really, either way would be fine with me. You know, I have a wonderful life, and this would be a great opportunity, but again, I'm happy with either decision."

And she said, "Mother, get a life!" (Laughs.) What teenager wouldn't like her mom to be out of town for a few days?



Q: Your mom wanted you to become a nun.

A: Oh, definitely.

Q: When did she stop pressing that?

A: She always pressed that. From

being a little girl, she would always be talking about how she wanted me to be a nun. ... It was always something that she thought would be a beautiful life, free from the hardships of life—and prayerful and making a contribution to society.

My mother was a very devout Catholic. One of my brothers went into the seminary, and oh my, she was as happy as she could be. He didn't stay.

Q: You say she was born 50 years too soon. What do you think she would've been if she'd been born later?

A: Anything she wanted to be. She was extraordinarily talented. ... She made an invention of her own, which she had a patent on, and she had a business sense. But the times and my father and just the obligations of family had their limitations for her.

I think if she had been born later ... she would have maybe still had seven children, but I think she would have been able to follow some of her own pursuits as well.

Q: The thing that she patented was?

A: Oh, she patented something that was the first patent ever received for applying steam to your face. Her grandmother had given her a formula that you put in and the water boils and steam comes up and it's good for your skin. She had beautiful skin. And it was called Velvex. V-e-l-v-e-x. Which was sort of a modern kind of a name when I think back on it. Velvex. And she was so proud of that, and she called it her brainchild.

But it would have involved travel, and that was completely out of the question.

Q: Not long after you first met

Paul Pelosi, but before you started dating or even became friends, he casually asked you if you'd mind picking up his shirts when you went to the cleaners. How did you ever let him live that down?

A: He has never lived it down! You're reading about it in the book! I think probably I may have gotten his attention that way, because there were a lot of people who would have loved to pick up Paul Pelosi's shirts, but I was not among them. (They met at the house of a mutual friend; she said she'd do him the favor and put his ticket in her pocket, but inadvertently returned from the cleaners with only her own clothes.) I totally forgot the minute I walked out the door, totally forgot—which I think made an impression on him.

Then later, after we were married, he asked me if I would iron a shirt and that didn't happen, either. ... I always said, "You know, people make a living doing this and we should support that part of our economy."

Q: You refer to the mystique of the old boys' club (in Congress during the 1980s) as the "Secret Sauce Club."

A: The men had ruled the roost for such a long time, and they liked that environment. They had this attitude of, "We know how to get this done, and there's a secret sauce to it." They never said it that way, but that's how I heard it: "There's a secret sauce, and you can't possibly know the recipe because we do."

In my view, the goal was not to go there and change their behavior but just to prevail in the debate. ... You know, once you have a gavel in your hands, everyone knows who the speaker is.

INTERNSHIPS

From Page

neglected.

Along with the two projects I am working on, I have also taken part in other events and ongoing projects. Some of these include, reef flat monitoring: a process in which the lagoon floor is studied and recorded so that over time, we can recognize any changes that have taken place, OSDS surveying: a process in which we go house to house in Kagman, surveying residents for information on their septic tank, while also insuring that they are in compliance with laws regarding to wastewater disposal, and lastly, library reading for children at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library: for this I read stories that could be related to the environment, and then explained the importance of properly caring for our environment and abiding by local laws set forth to protect it.

I am enjoying every bit of this internship, and I am very grateful that DEQ offers internships to college students each summer. They have given me the opportunity to seek something that is of interest to me, and for that I am truly grateful.

BATTERIES

From Page

Silver is expensive, but these batteries are available in small sizes where the amount of silver used is so small it does not affect the price or in larger sizes where the superior performance of the battery outweighs the cost.

In addition to watches, silver oxide batteries are also found in hearing aids, calculators and pagers. These batteries contain mercury, so they are hazardous and should not be sent to a landfill.

SECONDARY, RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Nickel-Cadmium Batteries (NiCd)

The nickel cadmium battery was the first rechargeable battery that was reasonably priced and available in the standard cylindrical sizes (AA, AAA, etc.). These batteries come in two types: vented cells and hermetically sealed cells. Vented cells must be positioned so they can vent properly and also require water for maintenance. They are commonly used in commercial and military applications. Hermetically sealed batteries, however, do not require any maintenance and they do not need to be specially positioned.



Nickel-Metal Hydride Batteries (NiMH)

The main difference between this battery and the NiCd battery is the metal hydride used instead of the cadmium. Nickel-metal hydride batteries are also available in the standard cylindrical sizes. These batteries also have two to three times the capacity of a nickel cadmium, and the memory effect is not as significant. Memory effect is when a battery's maximum energy capacity gradually decreases as a



The Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station houses a Materials Recovery Facility, more commonly known as a "Recycling Center," and accepts all types of batteries brought in by residential customers.

sitioned.

These batteries are used in low- to moderate-discharge devices such as scanners and portable radios. Since these batteries contain cadmium, a toxic heavy metal, they require special disposal. In the United States, there is a fee built into the price for nickel cadmium batteries which includes proper disposal of the batteries at the end of their lifetimes. All NiCd batteries are identified by the EPA as hazardous waste and must be recycled.

result of being recharged before the battery has completely discharged.

Nickel-metal hydride batteries are commonly used in high-discharge devices like portable power tools, digital cameras and laptops. They are considered non-hazardous waste, but do contain elements that can be recycled. The individual materials of the batteries are mechanically separated, and a high nickel content is produced and used in the manufacture of stainless steel.

Lithium-Ion and Lithium-Ion Polymer Batteries

These batteries only come in rectangular or cylindrical shapes. There is no issue of a memory effect with these batteries, meaning they can be recharged before they are completely discharged without affecting the energy capacity. They are smaller, lighter and provide more energy than nickel cadmium or nickel-metal hydride batteries.

Lithium batteries are most often used in



cell phones and mobile computing devices. They should not be stored in hot cars over the summer because when they reach high temperatures, they can easily ignite or explode. Lithium-ion batteries can also explode if damaged, so do not mess with the casing of the batteries. It is highly advised that when storing these batteries for recycling you tape the terminals. These batteries are recyclable, and the metal content of these batteries can be recovered in the recycling process.

Lead Acid Batteries (Automotive & Sealed Lead-Based)

Lead acid batteries are the oldest type of rechargeable battery. They should never be fully discharged because this will completely kill the battery. Hopefully, a battery will be created that can replace the lead acid battery because there are environmental concerns about improper disposal of these batteries, which are most frequently used in automobiles.

Sealed lead batteries should be recycled, as they contain hazardous materials and elements that can be reused.



Source: www.earth911.org

DUI charge may be blemish to LaBeouf's rising star

NEW YORK (AP)—In a town overrun with young stars behaving badly, Shia LaBeouf has appeared as something of a Hollywood golden boy—one of the industry's few bona fide megastars in the making.

He's been a sought-after actor for almost half of his 22-year-old life and a Steven Spielberg favorite, carefully groomed for stardom.

But with his arrest Sunday in Los Angeles on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, LaBeouf's rising star earned its first significant blemish and cause for damage control.

LaBeouf was arrested 3 a.m. in West Hollywood after his pickup collided with another vehicle, rolling the truck over.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Wolf said it was "immediately apparent" to officers on the scene that LaBeouf was intoxicated. With him was Isabel Lucas, a 23-year-old Australian actress who plays a supporting role in the "Transformers" sequel "Revenge of the Fallen," according to a person close to the movie's production who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to release that information. She was uninjured, as

was the driver of the other car.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said Tuesday that detectives have determined that the accident wasn't LaBeouf's fault and that the other driver apparently ran a red light.

Still, veteran Hollywood publicist David Brokaw said this is most certainly a time

of crisis management for LaBeouf and his managers.

"The question becomes: Does he want to use this as a wake-up call or is he going to draw this out and really hurt what he's doing?" said Brokaw. "Given some of the other behavior of other people in the business right now, I

think he's got a bit of a leash."

The most immediate effect may be the production schedule for the "Transformers" sequel. LaBeouf underwent surgery on his left hand and plans to return to work within a month, his publicist, Melissa Kates, said.

Shooting is continuing this week, but the production team was to meet Tuesday to discuss any necessary adjustments to the schedule.

The film, which is a joint effort between Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks, was already crossing its fingers that stalled negotiations among the Screen Actors Guild and the studios would not lead to a strike and interrupt production. (Michael Bay is returning as director for the film, which is due out next June.)

It was the first "Transformers" that established LaBeouf as a young, charismatic star capable of carrying a summer blockbuster and holding his own next to giant robots. It grossed more than \$700 million worldwide.

Spielberg was a producer on the first "Transformers" (and is again for the sequel), and he cast LaBeouf as Harrison Ford's son in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull"—a role as sought after as any.

Spielberg's publicist Marvin Levy said late Monday that the director had no comment, but that he was just thankful the injury wasn't too serious.

LaBeouf has had brushes with the law before but they were relatively harmless incidents that only enhanced the perception of his playful edginess.

A drunken confrontation with

guards at a Walgreens in Chicago late last year led to misdemeanor criminal trespassing charges. The charge was dropped because the drug store didn't want to pursue the matter.

In a lighthearted retelling of the incident to David Letterman on the "Late Show," LaBeouf said: "Drinking and driving is one thing, but drinking and shopping ... it's just as bad."

LaBeouf was separately cited in February for smoking where he shouldn't in Burbank, but a judge later dismissed the charge.

In an interview with Details magazine, planned for the cover of its September issue, LaBeouf spoke about his drinking.

"It's not something that is conducive to being a role model—no iconic actors that I know of have problems like that," LaBeouf told Details. "And I don't know how to do it like a gentleman. I don't know how to have one drink."

Whether a drinking problem becomes associated with LaBeouf—with fans, studios or investors—remains to be seen. He can expect to field plenty of questions about it when he promotes "Eagle Eye," a thriller due out Sept. 26 that reunites LaBeouf with "Disturbia" director D.J. Caruso.

"His deck of cards is not going to fall on one incident," said Brokaw. "But he would sure make the market and film companies and producers and the public feel a lot more comfortable if he said, 'You know, this may or may not be a problem of some note, and I'm going to see about making sure it's not a problem.'"

New arthritis drug gets approval recommendation

WASHINGTON (AP)—A government advisory panel Tuesday recommended approval of the drug Actemra, promoted as a new type of treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, a painful and disabling swelling of the joints generally kept in check with medication.

The Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc. drug is already being used in Japan, and the Food and Drug Administration must now decide whether to give its approval for patients in the United States. Actemra's effectiveness was not in dispute, but some of its side effects raised questions. Nonetheless, the vote was 10-1 in favor of approval, and the agency generally follows the recommendations of its advisors.

While the most common form of arthritis comes from wear and tear on the joints as people age, rheumatoid arthritis is an immune system disorder in which the body turns on itself, attacking the joints. Known as "RA," it affects about 2.5 million Americans and usually strikes in early adulthood or middle age. Women are much more likely to suffer from the condition, which can lead to disability and an early death if untreated.

Actemra works by blocking the effect of a certain protein associated with inflammation. In clinical trials, patients with moderate to severe disease given Actemra showed an easing of symptoms and improvement on lab test results. One trial also showed that Actemra worked in some patients who had not seen

improvement with a different type of treatment. In another trial, the drug was shown to help prevent damage to the joints.

But since Actemra acts to suppress the immune system, it can also have serious side effects. These can include severe infections, liver abnormalities and damage to digestive organs.

"It's always good to have new options for treating patients, but with a new drug, you don't know what the side-effect profile is," said Dr. Patience White, chief public health officer at the Arthritis Foundation. "In RA, you have a nearly 100 percent chance of being totally disabled and dying early, and you have a small chance of the side effects we're talking about." The group does not generally take a position on whether a medication should be approved.

The protein that Actemra acts on is known as IL-6 and serves as a chemical messenger between cells. Over-production of IL-6 has been linked to inflammation. Actemra, the only drug to act on this particular protein, blocks the interaction between IL-6 and cells. Actemra is not a chemical, but a type of biologic drug. It is an antibody genetically engineered in the lab.

New biologics are often among the more expensive medications on the market. Other biologic drugs for RA, including Enbrel, Humira and Remicade, act on a different protein related to inflammation. Patients would receive Actemra by intravenous infusion every four weeks in their doctor's office.



This booking photo released by the Chicago Police shows Shia LaBeouf who was charged with misdemeanor criminal trespassing after he refused to leave a Chicago drugstore on Nov. 4, 2007.

Authorities: LaBeouf not at fault for wreck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf was not to blame for an early-morning car wreck in Los Angeles, authorities said Tuesday, pinning fault on the other driver for apparently running a red light.

Also Tuesday, a person close to production of the "Transformers" sequel said LaBeouf's passenger in the accident was Isabel Lucas, the 23-year-old Australian who plays a supporting role. The person asked not to be named because he was not authorized to release the information.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore says detectives have determined that the other driver, who has not been identified, ran the light and will also be cited. LaBeouf was booked for a misdemeanor DUI and underwent surgery for injuries to his left hand.

"He was not at fault," Whitmore said of the "Transformers" actor.

LaBeouf's pickup truck collided with another vehicle at



In this May 3, 2008 file photo, actress Isabel Lucas arrives at the 134th Kentucky Derby, at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. Lucas was the passenger in Shia LaBeouf's wreck in Los Angeles early Sunday July 27, 2008.

3 a.m. Sunday in West Hollywood. Lucas and the driver of the other vehicle were not seriously injured.

Lucas, who has not yet appeared in any American films but has several upcoming projects, has returned to production on "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," which is due out next June, the person said. Melissa Kates, a publicist for LaBeouf, said he plans to return to work within a month.

LaBeouf was trying to make a left turn at the West Hollywood intersection of LaBrea and Fountain avenues when his pickup collided with another vehicle, rolling the truck over.

"It was immediately apparent to officers responding on the scene that LaBeouf was intoxicated and he was subsequently placed under arrest," Sgt. Scott Wolf said on Sunday.

Two attorneys listed for LaBeouf have not returned calls from The Associated Press.

Fergie 'thrilled' to play a prostitute in 'Nine'

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Fergie is excited about adding the role of a prostitute to her acting portfolio.

The Grammy-winning singer has been cast as Saraghina in "Nine," a big-screen adaptation of the Tony-winning musical. She will perform the saucy song "Be Italian" with Guido, played by Daniel Day-Lewis.

"She's basically a prostitute on the beach," Fergie told The Associated Press in an interview. "She introduces him to the world of sexuality. It's a very strong song. I'm just thrilled I get to play a character. I'm singing, but I'm not singing as myself. I'm going to be singing as a character, and that's what's

really exciting to me."

Fergie, 33, joins Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench and Kate Hudson in "Nine," directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"). Filming is set to begin in October. Fergie, whose real name is Stacy Ann Ferguson, had minor roles in the "Poseidon" and "Grindhouse" movies.

"I'm speechless," she said of the opportunity to work with the film's A-list talent. "I'm definitely going to be a sponge on set. I want to pick up on everything that all these brilliant actors are bringing to the table. I'm probably going to be the quietest that I've ever been while working just because I

want to watch and learn."

She was in Las Vegas on Monday to debut her two new shoe lines at the World Shoe Association show in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Fergie, who released her hit-packed solo album "The Dutchess" in 2006, said she's now in the studio working on a new album with the Black Eyed Peas, their first new record since 2005's "Monkey Business."

"It's a new sound," she said. "We're going into the future. We're not doing the same old thing. We're not trying to copy what's out there on the radio. We're being artistic and pushing the envelope."

CBS wins a ratings week ruled by reruns, reality

NEW YORK (AP)—Reality shows, newsmagazines and reruns of scripted series dominated prime-time schedules last week, so that's what viewers watched.

NBC's "America's Got Talent" took first place, followed by ABC's new unscripted hit "Wipeout." A repeat of the sitcom "Two and a Half Men" was third, then, also on CBS, "60 Minutes."

And so it went.

One rare first-run episodic series has gotten a warm reception: CBS' crime drama "Flashpoint" ranked 18th. Another CBS summer drama, "Swingtown," hasn't shown much swing. It ranked 59th after getting relegated to a Friday time slot.

For the week, CBS averaged 6.10 million viewers (4.1 household rating, 7 share). Runner-up Fox had 5.53 million viewers (3.5 rating, 6 share), while NBC had 5.39 million viewers (also 3.5 rating, 6 share), ABC 4.33 million viewers (2.8 rating, 5 share), the CW 1.56 million viewers (1.0 rating, 2 share), My Network TV with 1.07 million viewers (0.7 rating, 1 share) and ION Television 370,000 viewers (0.2 rating, 0 share), according to Nielsen Media Research.

Among the Spanish-language channels, Univision led with 3.32 million viewers (1.7 rating, 3 share), Telemundo had 1.27 million viewers (0.7 rating, 1 share), TeleFutura 440,000 viewers (0.2 rating, 0 share) and Azteca 110,000 viewers (0.1 rating, 0 share).

TNT's 'The Closer' is No. 1 on cable

Rankings for the top 15 programs on cable networks as compiled by Nielsen Media Research for the week of July 21-27. Day and start time (EDT) are in parentheses:

1. **"The Closer"** (Monday, 9 p.m.), TNT, 5.32 million homes, 7.06 million viewers.
2. **NASCAR Sprint Cup** (Sunday, 2 p.m.), ESPN, 4.89 million homes, 6.67 million viewers.
3. **"Saving Grace"** (Monday, 10 p.m.), TNT, 3.50 million homes, 4.57 million viewers.
4. **"Monk"** (Friday, 9 p.m.), USA, 3.45 million homes, 5.06 million viewers.
5. **"Best of Hannah and Miley"** (Saturday, 8 p.m.), Disney, 3.43 million homes, 5.86 million viewers.
6. **"Burn Notice"** (Thursday, 10 p.m.), USA, 3.39 million homes, 4.76 million viewers.
7. **"WWE Raw"** (Monday, 10 p.m.), USA, 3.34 million homes, 4.96 million viewers.
8. **"Law & Order: Criminal Intent"** (original) (Sunday, 9 p.m.), USA, 3.31 million homes, 4.32 million viewers.
9. **MLB: Yankees vs. Red Sox** (Sunday, 8:58 p.m.), ESPN, 3.18 million homes, 4.23 million viewers.
10. **"In Plain Sight"** (Sunday, 10 p.m.), USA, 3.18 million homes, 4.17 million viewers.
11. **"Psych"** (Friday, 10 p.m.), USA, 3.13 million homes, 4.48 million viewers.
12. **"The Next Food Network Star"** (Sunday, 10 p.m.), Food, 3.11 million homes, 4.51 million viewers.
13. **"WWE Raw"** (Monday, 9 p.m.), USA, 3.06 million homes, 4.49 million viewers.
14. **"iCarly"** (Friday, 8:30 p.m.), Nick, 3.03 million homes, 4.45 million viewers.
15. **"Army Wives"** (Sunday, 10 p.m.), Lifetime, 2.98 million homes, 3.64 million viewers.

In the evening news race, NBC's "Nightly News" pulled ahead, averaging 7.31 million viewers, while ABC's "World News" had 7.17 million viewers (both 5 rating, 11 share). "CBS Evening News" had 5.60 million

viewers (3.9 rating, 8 share).

A ratings point represents 1,128,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 112.8 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.

Whitaker named NBC News' Washington chief

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Whitaker has been named to replace Tim Russert as head of NBC News' Washington Bureau.

The former Newsweek editor, who joined NBC last year as senior vice president of news, will assume many of the off-camera duties held by Russert, who died of a heart attack in June.

As bureau chief, Whitaker will be in charge of "Meet the Press," as well as NBC News' election and political coverage. He also will make occasional appearances as an on-air analyst, the network said in its announcement Monday.

Whitaker, 50, worked as a summer intern at Newsweek while at Harvard University in the late 1970s and did a variety of jobs at the magazine before serving as its editor from 1998 to 2006.

While there, he supervised the growth of Newsweek's Web site, which is affiliated with NBC News' MSNBC.com. He was president of the American Society of Magazine Editors from 2004 to 2006.

With Whitaker's appointment, another decision remains in filling the gap left by Russert, legendary as a multi-tasker: Who will be the permanent "Meet the Press" host? Through the November election, the semiretired Tom Brokaw, who in the past anchored "NBC Nightly News," has stepped into the role.



STREET ART

U.S. street artist Kurt Wenner poses in his 3D illustration of an open vault containing British currency fluttering out, at Waterloo station, London, Thursday, July 24, 2008.

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NOW SHOWING



X-Files: I Want to Believe

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20 7:25 9:50
 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20 7:25

David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
 Thriller, Sci-Fi, Supernatural • Rated PG

Synopsis

The always-complicated relationship between Fox Mulder and Dana Scully moves in unexpected directions. Mulder continues his unshakable quest for the truth, and Scully, the passionate, ferociously intelligent physician, remains inextricably tied to Mulder's pursuits.



The Step Brothers

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:35
 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:10

Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Brennan Huff, a sporadically employed thirty-nine-year-old, lives with his mother, Nancy. Dale Doback, a terminally unemployed forty-year-old lives with his father, Robert. When Robert and Nancy marry and move in together, Brennan and Dale are forced to live with each other as step brothers. As their narcissism and downright aggressive laziness threaten to tear the family apart, these two middle-aged, immature, overgrown boys will orchestrate an insane, elaborate plan to bring their parents back together. To pull it off, they must form an unlikely bond that maybe, just maybe, will finally get them out of the house.



Dark Knight

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

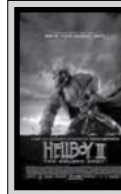
Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
 Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Space Chimps

Fri & Sat 1:05 @ 7:05 @
 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 @ 7:05

Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines
 Family-Oriented Comedy • Rated PG



Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:40
 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15

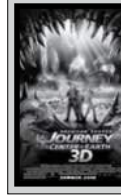
Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
 Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Mamma Mia

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55
 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
 Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G



Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Fri & Sat @ 4:15 @ 9:45
 Sun thru Thurs @ 4:15 @

Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem
 Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG



Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
 Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Amy Winehouse released from London hospital

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse was released from a London hospital Tuesday after an overnight stay to treat what her spokesman said was an adverse reaction to medication.

The 24-year-old singer-songwriter was discharged from London's University College after spending the night in observation, said spokesman Chris Goodman.

Winehouse was rushed to the hospital's emergency room by ambulance from her north London home Monday night. Goodman said the medication had been taken at her home, but did not provide further details.

"She had a bit of a scare yesterday because of a reaction to treatment. She was kept in overnight purely for observation," Goodman said in a statement. "Amy is at home now after leaving with her father and manager."



AP
In this file photo dated July 4, 2008, singer Amy Winehouse from England performs during the Rock in Rio music festival in Arganda del Rey, on the outskirts of Madrid, Spain.

She is having a rest." my Awards and global acclaim
Winehouse, who won Gram- for her 2006 album, "Back to

Black," was admitted to a London clinic in June after collapsing at home. Her father, Mitch Winehouse, said at the time she had developed early stage emphysema from smoking cigarettes and crack cocaine.

But the troubled singer was released to perform at celebrations for former South African President Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday in London's Hyde Park and for Britain's Glastonbury music festival.

In addition to her health woes, Winehouse has had several run-ins with police in recent months.

She was investigated by police after a tabloid newspaper published a video that appeared to show her smoking crack cocaine. She was not charged.

Police also cautioned Winehouse in April for assault after she slapped a man during a night out.

Armstrong, Streep among cancer telethon volunteers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Meryl Streep, Forest Whitaker, cancer survivor Lance Armstrong and other celebrities will take part in a three-network telethon to support cancer research, it was announced Tuesday.

The hour-long "Stand Up To Cancer" will air live and commercial-free on ABC, CBS and NBC on Sept. 5 and feature musical performances and appeals from actors, athletes and journalists.

Charlize Theron, Hilary Swank, America Ferrera, Danica Patrick, Salma Hayek, Kirsten Dunst, Josh Brolin, Scarlett Johansson, Jennifer Aniston, Masi Oka and news anchors Charles Gibson, Brian Williams and Katie Couric will be among those taking part.

Former Sen. John Edwards' wife, Elizabeth, and Robin Roberts of ABC's "Good Morning America" also are set to appear. Both women have battled breast cancer.

During the telethon, viewers will be invited to make donations by calling the celebrity-staffed phone bank or by texting.

Musicians and other participants are to be announced, according to a "Stand Up To Cancer" release.

Such network cooperation is rare but not unprecedented. In 2005, the six biggest broadcasters, along with cable channels, carried a Hurricane Katrina benefit program. In 2001, ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox aired a telethon for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Fox was invited to participate in the cancer telethon but declined.

In a statement Tuesday, Fox called the telethon worthy but said it was focusing on "the global outreach of 'Idol Gives Back,'" its charity effort tied to its hit singing contest "American Idol."



AP
From left, producer Charles Roven, actor Christian Bale, actress Maggie Gyllenhaal and actor Aaron Eckhart, smile during a press conference to promote their new Batman movie "The Dark Knight" in Tokyo, Japan, Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Batman star skirts assault questions in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Christian Bale skirted questions about the assault allegations against him Tuesday at the Japanese premiere of "The Dark Knight."

British media has reported that Bale's mother and sister told police he assaulted them at the hotel a day before attending the film's European premiere.

But the Batman star managed to make it through the hugely successful Warner Bros. movie's premiere in Japan with virtually no comment on his personal problems.

"It's a private matter," he

told a crowded news conference. Last week, in Spain, Bale brushed off reporters with a similar comment.

Bale has said through his lawyers that the assault allegations are false.

The 34-year-old Welsh actor's personal drama hasn't hurt the movie. It crossed the \$300 million mark in just 10 days in the U.S. and is expected to do well in Europe and Asia.

Bale and his co-stars were at no loss for words over the performance of the late Heath Ledger, who stole the show with his

eccentric and highly charged portrayal of the Joker.

"You could see how much glee and pleasure he got out of playing this character," Bale said of Ledger, who died in January.

Bale was the child star of Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun" in 1987. His screen credits also include "American Psycho," "The Machinist" and "Batman Begins."

"The Joker claims the only things you can believe in are chaos and disorder," Bale said. "There is some truth to that."

Vegas police: Jerry Lewis cited for gun in luggage

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police say they have confiscated a gun belonging to Jerry Lewis that was found in the 82-year-old entertainer's carryon bag as he prepared to fly to Detroit from Las Vegas.



Lewis

Las Vegas policeman Bill gun is a hollowed-out prop gun

Cassell said Tuesday that the actor was cited Friday for carrying an unloaded concealed weapon at the Las Vegas airport.

Lewis' manager, Claudia Marghilano, says the hand-

gun is a hollowed-out prop gun that Lewis sometimes twirls during his show. She tells The Associated Press that the gun couldn't fire.

Marghilano says Lewis didn't know the gun was in the bag along with other props.

Cassell says if the gun were merely a prop "it wouldn't be a weapon and we couldn't cite him for carrying a weapon."

Contact with ailing granddad enriches both young and old

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Paw-Paw and Maw-Maw in Alabama" (May 13), whose son has cut off contact with their 5-year-old grandson to "protect" the boy from Grandpa's eventual death, left me feeling intense sorrow for all concerned.



Dear Abby

In 1996, my grandfather was ecstatic that I was pregnant and anxiously awaited the arrival of his triplet great-grandchildren. At age 102, he was with us at the hospital when they were born, and remained an integral part of their lives until his death five years later.

We believe Grandpa's loving involvement with the children extended the quality and length of his life. In exchange, the kids' first years were blessed with the special love and adoration of a great-grandparent.

Abby, the day "Paw-Paw's" letter was published, I picked up my now-12-year-olds from school. They told me their writing assignment that day was an essay relating a favorite memory. Be it serendipity, providence or coincidence, two of the triplets had written about "G.G." (Great-Grandfather). One of the stories ended with "although G.G. is no longer with us, he will always be in my heart."

JAN IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR JAN: Thank you for sharing that story. Response to "Paw-Paw's" letter was huge. Many readers wrote to describe the importance of grandparent memories in their lives. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We lost my father 16 months ago after a long illness. My small children spent two days a week with him and my mother, and were a significant part of the joy in his life.

We never hid his illness from them. We did just the opposite. My son was a great help to his Nana and Pop-Pop, bringing him lunch and helping to move the medical equipment back and forth across the house.

I am convinced that allowing the children to be a part of their grandfather's life through the end of it has given them a sense of compassion and a life skill that all of us will need at some point in our lives. Children grieve, too, and it is our job as parents to help them learn to cope with life's disappointments, not to shelter them from the realities they will face as adults.

NANCY IN ALLENTOWN, PA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a hospice chaplain, I have worked with many children and many levels of maturity. In my experience, it is important to listen carefully to children and let them "self-select." If they seem comfortable or choose to be with a family member who is passing, it is best to let them be there. If it appears to be traumatic or they verbalize that they don't wish to be there, honor that as well and perhaps find a parallel way in which they can share in the transition. And bear in mind that the age of the child does not necessarily indicate his/her preparedness for confronting end-of-life issues.

ARTHUR IN DERRY, N.H.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Months after my granddaughter Kacie was born in 2000, I found out I have a rare cancer. As long as the medicine I take works, I am fine except for occasional pain. We see Kacie every day, before and after school. I really don't think I would still be here if I couldn't see her. Kacie is the light of our lives and gives me something special to live for.

GRANDMOTHER IN OHIO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When our grandfather died, my sisters and I were upset that we didn't get more time with him. Years later, we found out that our parents had decided to shelter us from his last few weeks of life. This form of "protection" wound up "killing" Grandpa for us, before he was dead.

Please don't do this. Allow them to spend every moment they have left. If you have had love and laughter to the end, you will grieve but with the knowledge that you did all you could to honor Grandpa and preserve his memory. Regret perpetuates itself—and my parents now realize they did the wrong thing.

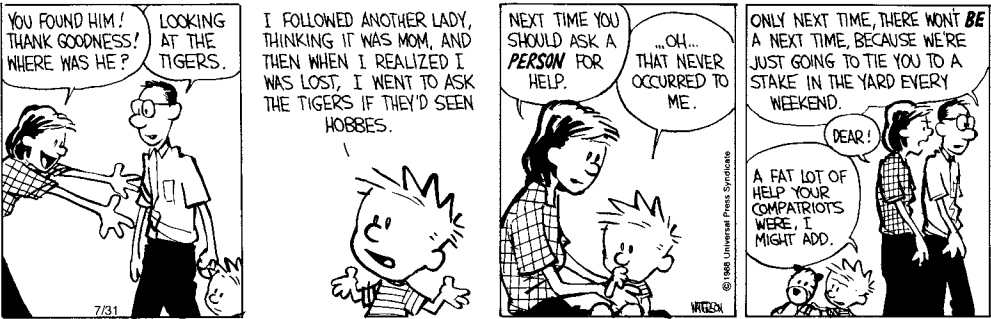
SHEILA IN MANHASSET, N.Y.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

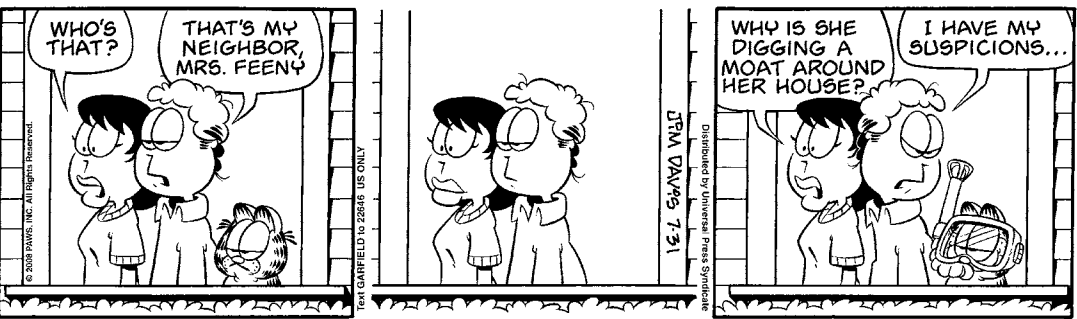
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



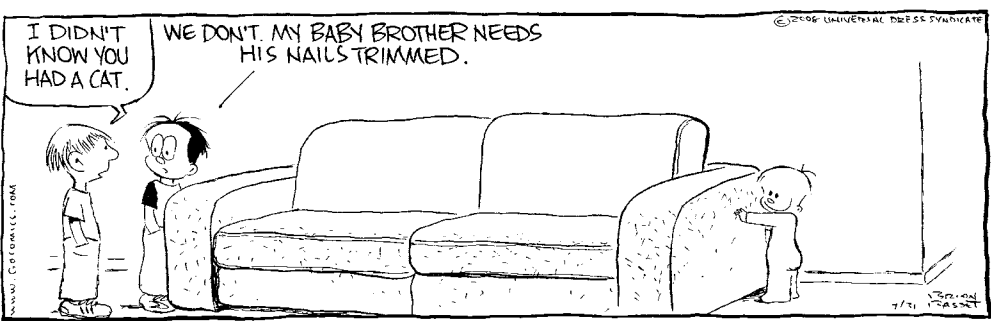
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



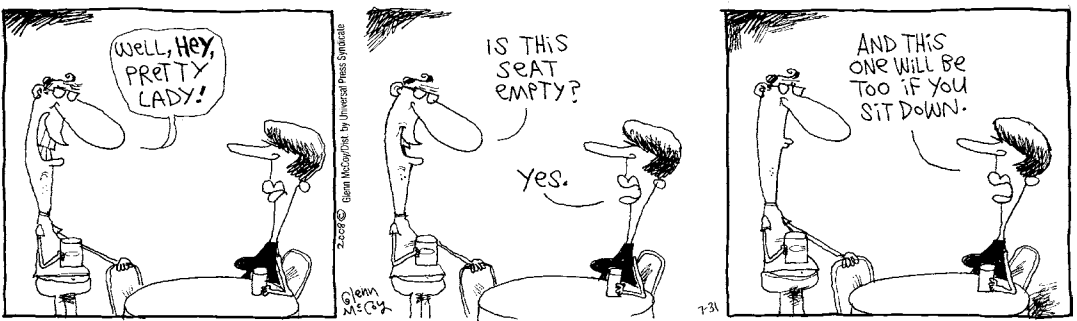
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cupid's alias

5 Matter-horn, for one

8 Benefit

12 Wander about

13 Grazing territory

14 Wield needles

15 Mosque bigwig

16 Back talk

17 Mormon state

18 Blotchy critter

20 Eli's campus

22 Electricity-generating station

26 Rueful

29 "— Sera Sera"

30 Earl Grey, e.g.

31 Sandwich cookie

32 Clear the tables

33 Anthro-pologist Margaret

34 Without delay

35 "Mamma —!"

36 Heart line?

37 Boston fern, often

40 "— do for now"

41 Apiarist's woes

45 Paddock papa

47 Clay, now

49 Osso buco base

50 Concept

51 Affirma-tive action?

52 Erstwhile Canadian ballplayer

53 Lincoln in-law

54 Storm center

55 Mulligan, e.g.

DOWN

1 Actor

2 "Arri-vederci, —"

3 Ellipse

4 Part-time jock

5 Let

6 Main-lander's memento

7 Scroll material

8 All we see of

9 One may attack an army

10 Spectra or

11 Ordinal suffix

19 Coquett-ish

21 Mimic

23 Peer

24 Spruced up

25 "I did it!"

26 Ex-frosh

27 "Novus — Seclorum"

28 Neces-sary

32 Sopwith Camel, for one

33 Who-dunits' reasons

35 Blanc or Brooks

36 Adam of rock music

38 Place

39 Remark to the crowd

42 Adjacent

43 Stare stupidly

44 Deceler-ate

45 Perch

46 Bach-elor's last utterance

48 Powell co-star

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eric Lively, 27; Dean Cain, 42; J.K. Rowling, 43; Wesley Snipes, 46

Happy Birthday: Keep things a little secretive this year and you will prosper. You will have some unique, profitable ideas. A relationship may need some fixing and a choice must be made. Don't give in or sell out because you are afraid to go it alone. Believe in yourself, your abilities and your future. Your numbers are 10, 14, 23, 35, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Love and romance are heading your way. Check out a new product that can enhance your looks or indulge in a spa treatment or activity that challenges and motivates you to excel. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Speak from the heart and get to the bottom of whatever is going wrong in your life. You may not like everything you hear but at least you can assess your situation and make the necessary changes. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a deep breath and relax before you say or do something you may regret. Love is on the rise so put your all into a meaningful relationship. This is not the time to accept challenges but rather to have fun. Be good to yourself. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't blow situations out of proportion or overreact to something that may be a figment of your imagination. Concentrate on bringing more happiness to your life. A new look at a vocation that interests you will give you greater insight. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Jump into a job by putting things in place ahead of time. A strategic phone call or e-mail will help you get the lowdown. An opportunity will open up because of your enthusiasm and timely progress. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will be willing to put him- or herself on the line for you. Take whatever help is offered. Trying to do everything yourself so you can take all the credit will not go over well with your peers. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Becoming emotional or difficult to deal with will cost you professionally. Love is in the stars but don't give in to someone who may be giving you a line or exaggerating about what he or she has to offer. Don't bend to someone for the wrong reason. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on what you can do, not what you can't. Something a little unorthodox will grab the attention of someone who can potentially contribute to your most recent project. Love problems will arise if someone isn't being honest. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay off debts and collect what's owed to you but don't spend foolishly, trying to impress someone. There is no time to waste when it comes to making money and it's certainly not a good idea to be frivolous. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your connection to someone cause you grief financially. Pay what you must

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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for what you want but don't get involved in a joint venture or a fast cash scheme. A conservative approach has worked best for you in the past and will today. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Surprise someone you love and you will be rewarded in a most unusual way. A change in the way you deal with a partner will help give you the upper hand and position you well for future joint ventures. ***

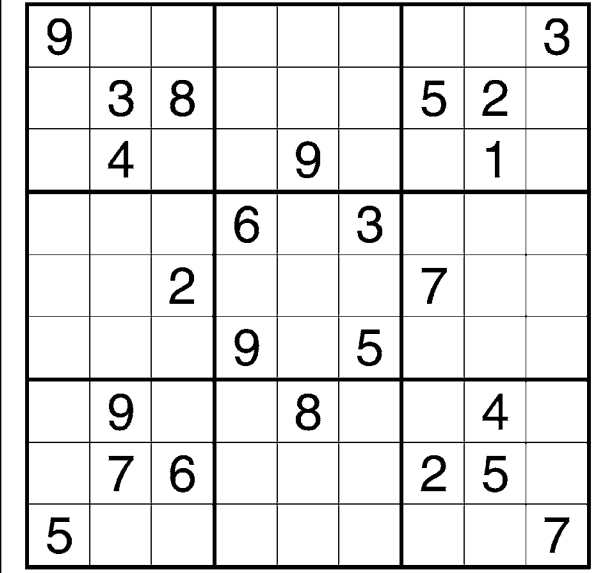
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Participate in social events that allow you to network in your industry of interest. You have plenty of good ideas and, if you push hard and act aggressively, your enthusiasm will draw partners, financing and the support needed. ***

Birthday Baby: You are exciting, dynamic and a born leader. You are sensitive, changeable and always ready to take action. You demand loyalty, freedom and need to follow your own path.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 7/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	7	2	5	1	4	9	8
8	1	2	3	9	4	6	5	7
5	4	9	6	7	8	1	3	2
2	8	6	4	3	9	7	1	5
1	7	3	5	8	2	9	4	6
9	5	4	1	6	7	2	8	3
4	2	8	7	1	3	5	6	9
3	6	1	9	2	5	8	7	4
7	9	5	8	4	6	3	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 7/31

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• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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NBA scandal: Corrupt ref gets 15-month sentence



NEW YORK (AP)—Disgraced ex-NBA official Tim Donaghy admitted that he'd brought shame on his profession Tuesday as a federal judge sentenced him to 15 months behind bars for a gambling scandal that still has the league on the defensive.

U.S. District Judge Carol Amon sentenced Donaghy to prison time plus three years of supervised release, saying he'd let the sport down by taking thousands of dollars from a professional gambler in exchange for inside tips on games—including ones he refereed.

"The NBA, the players and the fans relied on him to perform his job in an honest manner," Amon said. Donaghy listened with his arms folded but showed no emotion.

He told the judge that "I've brought shame on myself, my family and the profession."

Defense attorney John Lauro asked Amon to give his 41-year-old client probation, saying the ex-official was a gambling addict who destroyed "the career he loved" and needed treatment, not incarceration. Donaghy also had sought to make amends by revealing "the good, the bad and the ugly" about the league's officiating, the attorney added.

During the NBA finals, Donaghy said in a court filing that the league routinely encouraged refs to ring up bogus fouls to manipulate results, while discouraging them from calling technical fouls on star players.

In the end, Amon refused Donaghy's plea to stay out of prison, though she imposed a penalty that was not as tough as the 33 months he could have received. Donaghy must surrender to prison on Sept. 23.

Case closed for him. For the NBA, the damage lingers.

Commissioner David Stern has made



Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy exits Brooklyn federal court following his sentencing, Tuesday, July 29, 2008, in New York.

several moves to quell doubts about the integrity of the NBA's officiating, with more developments to come.

Former Army Gen. Ron Johnson has been hired as senior vice president of referee operations, Bernie Fryer and Joe Borgia were promoted to new management positions and the league reassigned Ronnie Nunn, who had been the director of officials for five years.

Still pending is a league-commissioned review of officiating by former federal prosecutor Lawrence Pedowitz. "I am conducting additional interviews and hope to obtain additional information from the government. My review is well-advanced but not complete," Pedowitz said Tuesday. No date has been set for the report's release.

Justin Wolfers, an assistant professor of business and public policy at Penn's Wharton School, who co-authored a study that said white referees called fouls at a greater rate against black players than against white players, said the league needs to share all the information it has.

"Any fan who sees anything other than transparency will have questions," he said. "I think they want to be as much of an open book with fans, journalists and researchers as they can possibly be."

Perhaps most shocking were Donaghy's charges during the highly anticipated finals between the Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers that results were manipulated to help ticket sales and television ratings.

The allegations—contained in court papers arguing that Donaghy deserved leniency for voluntarily disclosing the alleged corruption—included one instance claiming referees rigged a 2002 playoff series to force it to a revenue-boosting seventh game.

Though the papers didn't name the teams involved, only the Los Angeles Lakers-Sacramento Kings series went

to seven games during those playoffs. The Lakers went on to win the championship.

Both Stern and the league's officials have said Donaghy made the claims to get a lighter sentence.

"We anticipate that the judge's sentencing decision, together with the changes we have made to our referee operations staff, will enable us to continue with the improvements we are making to our anti-gambling rules, policies and procedures," Stern said Tuesday.

"There is little comfort to be gained from the mandatory prison sentence, especially as it affects Mr. Donaghy's children and their mother, but hopefully the healing process can begin in earnest for all."

The NBA could get a break from the Olympics, where the U.S. team is a heavy favorite to bounce back from a bronze-medal performance in 2004 and win the gold. MVP Kobe Bryant and all-star LeBron James, who has guaranteed victory, will lead a loaded U.S. team.

Donaghy pleaded guilty last August to conspiracy to engage in wire fraud and transmitting betting information through interstate commerce in the tips-for-payoffs scheme. "By having this nonpublic information, I was in a unique position to predict the outcome of NBA games," he told a judge at the time.

Lauro said that to clear his conscience, Donaghy began cooperating with prosecutors even before he was charged, and claimed he "provided the government a roadmap" to widespread misconduct in the NBA.

"He told it all—the good, the bad and the ugly," Lauro said. "He had to do it because it was the right thing to do ... The bottom line is that Mr. Donaghy has been a model cooperator."

Prosecutors have said that though he deserved credit for helping make the case against two co-defendants—both former high school classmates of Donaghy—nothing else he alleged was criminal.

At a sentencing last week, James Battista, a professional gambler and admitted drug addict, got 15 months in prison for making bets based on inside tips. Thomas Martino, the scheme's middleman, was sentenced to a year and one day for paying the referee thousands of dollars for the tips. The three men attended school together in Springfield, Pa.

On Tuesday, the judge called Donaghy "more culpable" than the others. "Without Mr. Donaghy, there was no scheme," she said.

The league had demanded nearly \$1.4 million in restitution. But the judge last week set the restitution at \$217,266, to be paid jointly by the three defendants.

"Tim acted in a completely selfish and unforgivable way, and has forever compromised the way people look at sports and officiating," said Lamell McMorris, spokesperson for the National Basketball Referees Association. "However, NBA referees will continue to officiate with the highest level of integrity and professionalism."

Ron Artest to be traded to Rockets

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets are close to an agreement to acquire Ron Artest from the Sacramento Kings, two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The Rockets will give up guard Bobby Jackson, who played for the Kings from 2000-05, and another player—likely rookie forward Donte Greene, according to two NBA people who confirmed the deal, but spoke on condition of anonymity because no official announcement had been made.

The Houston Chronicle first reported details of the trade on its Web site on Tuesday night.

Artest's long-anticipated move out of Sacramento probably can't be announced yet because Greene, acquired by the Rockets on draft night last month, signed a contract with Houston on July 14. A player can't be traded within 30 days of signing a contract, according to league rules.

Rockets general manager Daryl Morey did not immediately return a phone message. Rockets spokesman Nelson Luis said Morey was traveling out of the country and unavailable for comment. Morey planned to attend the

Olympics next month.

The Kings confirmed that the teams had spoken about Artest.

"We have had some very positive discussions with Houston involving Ron, but no trade is imminent at this time," said Geoff Petrie, the Kings' president of basketball operations.

The 6-foot-7, 248-pound Artest averaged 20.5 points last season, his highest since 2004-05, when he averaged 24.5 for Indiana. He also grabbed 5.8 rebounds per game for Sacramento last season.

The 28-year-old Artest is as well known for his volatile personality as his basketball skills. While playing for the Indiana Pacers, he was the central figure in the 2004-05 brawl with fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills during a road game against the Detroit Pistons.

He was suspended for 73 games, the NBA's harshest punishment for a fight. In December, two civil lawsuits against Artest that stemmed from the fight were dismissed.

Artest had surgery on his left thumb in April and was expected to take 8-to-10 weeks to recover. His summer has

been just as turbulent as most of his NBA career.

After wavering for more than two months, Artest elected not to opt out of the final year of his contract for \$7.4 million by July 1. But the forward immediately announced he regretted his decision, saying the Kings had misled him on their interest in a long-term contract extension. Artest also said he couldn't see himself playing in Sacramento beyond next season.

Artest apologized to the Kings a few days later after a long discussion with Petrie—but one week after that, Artest demanded a trade, claiming he had been blinded to his career well-being by his friendship with the Maloof family, which owns the Kings.

Joe Maloof responded sharply to Artest, warning the forward to muzzle himself. Two weeks later, the Kings apparently found a taker for Artest's defensive skills and high-maintenance personality.

The trade will reunite Artest with Rick Adelman, who coached Sacramento when Artest was acquired by the Kings in a trade with Indiana dur-

ing the 2005-06 season.

Artest played 40 games for Adelman and averaged 16.9 points, 5.2 rebounds and a career-high 4.2 assists. He was also named to the NBA All-Defensive first team.

Mark Stevens, Artest's agent, said the relationship Artest had with Adelman helped make the deal possible.

"Ron has a great relationship with Rick Adelman," Stevens told Houston television station KRIV. "He never wanted to leave Sacramento, but because of business he has to."

"Ron is grateful Adelman wants him to play for him again. It's a wish come true."

The Rockets went 55-27 last season, but failed to get past the first round for the fourth time in five seasons.

The Kings, meanwhile, would be thrilled to get their hands on Greene, a 6-foot-11 forward from Syracuse who impressed the club in pre-draft workouts. Greene was drafted by Memphis with the 28th overall pick and traded to Houston in a three-team deal on draft night.

Although Greene played just one college season, he proved to be a versatile scorer who could fit well into Sacramento coach Reggie Theus' up-tempo game plans.

Favre faxes reinstatement letter to NFL



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Brett Favre's decision to file for reinstatement will force the Green Bay Packers to do one of three things: release him, trade him, or allow him to report to camp.

If he reports, it potentially could cause a major distraction for a team that committed to moving on after he retired in March.

NFL spokesman Randall Liu confirmed that Favre sent his reinstatement paperwork to the NFL offices Tuesday. He now is awaiting approval from commissioner Roger Goodell, a step that is considered a formality, but wouldn't be forthcoming until Wednesday at the earliest.

Once Favre is reinstated, the Packers will have 24 hours to decide what to do with him.

"That's obviously the first step in Brett coming back, so we'll deal with that when he is reinstated and we'll definitely have a plan in order," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said after practice Tuesday afternoon.

ESPN first reported that Favre faxed the letter earlier Tuesday.

If Goodell reinstates Favre on Wednesday, his return to the practice field for the Packers could come Friday. The Packers practice twice Wednesday



Fans hold up signs to bring back Brett Favre at football training camp Tuesday, July 29, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis.

but can wait a day to put Favre back on their active roster. The team does not have a scheduled public practice Thursday.

Throughout Favre's latest round of flip-flopping on his football future, Packers officials have said that Favre had the option of rejoining the team - but Aaron Rodgers would be the starter.

"Brett Favre is still a very good football player," McCarthy said Tuesday. "He is an asset to our football team. Once again, I'm going to answer this

question for the last time. The plan for Brett Favre will be discussed with Brett Favre first, and then we'll make it aware to the public."

McCarthy also said Rodgers will start all of the preseason games and probably get more playing time than Favre used to in the preseason.

"He'll be starting all of the games as the starter," McCarthy said of Rodgers. "We've talked about possibly playing our first group maybe a little longer, and those are things that we'll dis-

cuss. The health of your football team obviously factors into that, so that is our plan going into the preseason with Aaron."

Rodgers insisted he isn't bothered by the potential of having Favre lurking over his shoulder.

"You know, I'm not as affected as you guys (the media) think I am or should be," Rodgers said. "They told me I'm the starter, and until that changes, that's going to be my focus."

Rodgers said he is confident in his abilities and the firm commitment he has received from Packers coaches.

"I've been empowered as the starting quarterback and until that changes, I'll say it again, that's going to be my focus," Rodgers said.

Rodgers said he and Favre have "never had a problem" and would probably "joke around" when they saw each other again.

"We've got a great relationship," Rodgers said. "If he's here, we'll welcome him back."

But some Packers players seemed skeptical that Favre would remain the backup if he ended up reporting to camp and wasn't traded away.

"I don't know about that," wide receiver Donald Driver said. "But we'll see. We'll see what happens."

Cornerback Charles Woodson—who chanted "We want Brett!" as he left the practice field Tuesday, but later laughed it off as "just having a little fun" with reporters—seemed to think Favre could play his way into the position.

"Who knows how Brett feels about that—if he's coming in as being the backup, or coming in and a potential trade is going to happen, I don't know," Woodson said. "But if he comes in as the backup, he just comes in and plays the way he knows how to play. And if it's better, then the organization has another decision to make."

But Woodson said players aren't taking sides.

"There's no reason for anyone in the locker room to take sides or say in the media they prefer one guy over the other," Woodson said. "It's A-Rod's job, and at this point, it's his job to keep."

McCarthy said Favre's

presence wouldn't become a distraction.

"I'm not concerned about it," McCarthy said. "We have talked about it as a football team. The players are handling it totally different than I think the perception is out there. We're about playing football. We're about getting ready for our season upcoming. Everybody is aware of everything that is going on. There are no ill feelings toward Brett Favre, and he will be welcomed back into our locker room."

Of course, it won't come to that if the Packers can work out a trade deemed acceptable to Favre in the next few days.

The Packers have no plans to grant Favre the release he has requested, suspecting that he would immediately sign with division rival Minnesota; the Packers have filed tampering charges against the Vikings.

The team owns Favre's rights until his contract expires after the 2010 season, making a trade the most likely outcome acceptable to both Favre and the Packers.

But maybe not for some of his old teammates.

"He would look ugly in any other uniform, plain and simple," Driver said. "Every guy that leaves here and gets another uniform, that's what I tell them: They look ugly."

Zambrano beats Sheets in Cubs' 7-1 victory over Brewers



MILWAUKEE (AP) — Carlos

Zambrano outpitched fellow ace Ben Sheets again, and Chicago scored five runs in the sixth to beat the Brewers 7-1 on Tuesday, assuring the Cubs they will leave Milwaukee leading the National League Central.

Zambrano (12-4) threw eight scoreless innings, striking out a season-high nine while scattering five hits and two walks to lift the Cubs to their sixth win in the last eight games in Milwaukee.

In a much-hyped series between the NL's top teams, Chicago pushed its division lead to three games and left the Brewers, losers of four of their last five, empty after pitching aces CC Sabathia and Sheets.

Mets 4, Marlins 1

At Miami, Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer and New York's Oliver Perez pitched six innings for his first victory in a month.

Florida, which had six hits, fell two games behind the NL East leaders.

The Mets were nursing a one-run lead in the eighth when cleanup hitter Delgado faked a bunt, then hit his 23rd homer three pitches later. Nick Evans had two hits and scored New York's first two runs.

Phillies 2, Nationals 1

At Washington, Brett Myers won for only the second time in 15 outings for Philadelphia and Chase Utley backed him with a two-run homer to beat Washington.

It was Myers' second start since being demoted to the minors for four appearances to try to revive his confidence and shake a season-long funk. The right-hander threw seven-plus innings and didn't allow an earned run, improving to 4-9.

Cardinals 8, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Albert Pujols homered to tie the game and scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error before St. Louis broke it open with a five-run ninth against Atlanta.

Pujols hit a towering drive leading off the sixth, tying the score at 2 with his 21st homer. He started the eighth with a double off Rafael Soriano (0-1). After Ryan Ludwick lined out, Pujols took off for third on a surprise stolen base attempt.

Corky Miller's throw sailed into left field, allowing Pujols to score and give the win to Ryan Franklin (4-4). The Cardinals made it a laughter in the ninth off Mike Gonzalez, though only one of the five runs he surrendered in two-thirds of an inning was earned.

Pirates 6, Rockies 4

At Pittsburgh, Luis Rivas had three hits, three RBIs and finished

a home run short of the cycle, as Pittsburgh rallied for a second straight game to beat Colorado.

Nate McLouth and Jason Bay both had two hits for the Pirates, who came back from a 4-0 deficit.

Jason Davis (1-0), making his first appearance since being called up from Triple-A Indianapolis on Sunday, pitched a scoreless sixth and Tyler Yates earned his first save of the season.

Astros 6, Reds 2

At Houston, Carlos Lee hit his 12th career grand slam and Brian Moehler came within one out of a complete game for Houston.

Moehler (6-4) allowed seven hits and struck out three in 8 2-3 innings, his longest outing of the season. Jeff Keppinger doubled and scored in the ninth for Cincinnati.

Wesley Wright relieved with two on and two outs and struck out Joey Votto for his first save.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 0

At San Diego, Doug Davis gave up a single with two outs in the seventh to break up his bid for a perfect game in Arizona's win over San Diego.

The Padres had not come close to reaching base against Davis through 6 2-3 innings before Brian Giles hit a line drive to center field on a 2-2 pitch.

Davis (4-5), who underwent

surgery for cancer earlier this season, combined with two relievers on a two-hitter for the NL-West leading Diamondbacks.

Dodgers 2, Giants 0

At Los Angeles, Jason Johnson pitched six sharp innings in his first major league start in nearly two years and James Loney singled in the go-ahead run as Los Angeles blanked San Francisco.

Johnson (1-0), who spent most of the season in Triple-A, scattered five hits while walking none and striking out three before being relieved by Park Chan-ho to start the seventh. The right-hander, who has pitched for eight major league teams starting in 1997, was making his first start since Aug. 18, 2006, when he pitched for Boston.

Angels 6, Red Sox 2

At Boston, John Lackey came within two outs of a no-hitter, pitching Los Angeles past Boston on a big day for the American League West leaders.

Hours after the Angels acquired slugger Mark Teixeira in a trade with Atlanta, Lackey didn't allow a hit until Dustin Pedroia grounded a sharp single through the left side with one out in the ninth.

Kevin Youkilis followed with a home run to spoil the shutout bid, but Lackey finished the two-hitter to help the Angels (66-40) improve on what was already

the best record in baseball.

Orioles 7, Yankees 6

At New York, Daniel Cabrera pitched into the eighth inning before being ejected, and Aubrey Huff had four RBIs for Baltimore, which beat New York for its third straight win.

Kevin Millar homered as the Orioles clinched their first series win since they took two of three against the Cubs from June 24-26 at Wrigley Field.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 0

At Toronto, Matt Garza threw a five-hitter for his first career shutout, and Tampa Bay beat Toronto's Roy Halladay for the third time in three games this season.

Eric Hinske hit a solo homer and Evan Longoria added a two-run triple for the Rays.

Garza (9-6), who benefited from three double plays, struck out five and walked one.

Halladay (12-8) lost 6-4 at Tampa Bay on July 19, and dropped a 5-3 decision to the Rays at Tropicana Field on April 23.

Tigers 8, Indians 5

At Cleveland, Brandon Inge homered and drove in three runs as Detroit downed Cleveland.

Armando Galarraga (9-4) retired the first nine Indians in order before running into trouble in the middle innings. He gave up three runs and five hits over 5 1-3 innings, improving to 3-0

this year against Cleveland.

Twins 6, White Sox 5

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau's bases-clearing double capped a five-run fifth to help Minnesota rally from a four-run deficit and beat Chicago.

The win moved the Twins within a half-game of Chicago, which has been atop the AL Central since May 17.

Given a 4-0 lead, Clayton Richard (0-1) was cruising in his second major league start until the fifth.

Rangers 11, Mariners 10

At Arlington, Texas, Ramon Vazquez atoned for three errors with a two-run double in the ninth that gave Texas the win over Seattle.

The Rangers, who wasted a seven-run lead after three innings, trailed 10-9 in the bottom of the ninth. Marlon Byrd and Chris Davis singled off Seattle closer J.J. Putz (2-4). After an out, Vazquez drove in two runs.

Royals 5, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, John Buck and Mike Aviles hit home runs and Gil Meche allowed five hits over seven innings as Kansas City downed Oakland to win its fourth consecutive road game.

Aviles' solo shot in the sixth gave the Royals a 2-1 lead and Buck added a three-run homer in the seventh.

PBA Year 2007-2008 Awards

Photos By MARK RABAGO



Budweiser Saturday League 38th season champions Chi/ken Tsayer pose with their hardware up on the Club V stage.



Philippine Bowling Association Bowler of the Year champion Rusty Musca receives his trophy from Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano during PBA Year 2007-2008 awards ceremony last Sunday at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel.



PBA Bowler of the Year runner-up Raymond Zapanta receives his second place trophy from SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



PBA Bowler of the Year second runner-up Dannie Robles receives his third place trophy from SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



Bowler of the Year third runner-up Nick Gutierrez receives his fourth place trophy from SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



Bowler of the Year fourth runner-up Efren Cacdac receives his fifth place trophy from SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



Budweiser Classified Tournament 2007-2008 Class A champion Kitz Barja is all smiles after receiving one of the bowler of the month trophies from SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



Budweiser Classified Tournament 2007-2008 Class B champion Allan Hernandez receives his championship trophy from SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



Budweiser Classified Tournament 2007-2008 Class C champion Ed Echavez poses with his trophy while SBA vice president Ador Dimaano looks on.



PBA No Tap Tournament champion Robert Talavera poses with his trophy and winnings. Also in photo is SBA vice president Ador Dimaano.



Favre faxes reinstatement letter to NFL

Brett Favre's decision to file for reinstatement will force the Green Bay Packers to do one of three things: release him, trade him, or allow him to report to camp.

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

NBA scandal: Corrupt ref gets 15-month sentence

Disgraced ex-NBA official Tim Donaghy admitted that he'd brought shame on his profession Tuesday as a federal judge sentenced him to 15 months behind bars for a gambling scandal that still has the league on the defensive.

24



28 THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI still winless in Easley

MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

One off day apparently wasn't enough for the CNMI, as the Asia-Pacific champions were beaten by Canada, 12-2, yesterday in the 2008 Big League World Series at the J.B. "Red" Owens Complex in Easley, South Carolina.

Like its 10-run rule losses against the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, the hits came few and too far between for the Saipan Big League All-Stars as Canada, represented here by British Columbia, almost shut them out until the fifth inning when Juan Tenorio and Ryan Ada brought home Elton Santos and Vicente Cabrera.

The two hits, however, were the most the CNMI can muster against Cody Palleson as Canada's ace struck out Vicente Cabrera looking and induced Jesus Iguel to fly out to shallow right that caused Tenorio to get tagged out at second base for the game's final out.

Palleson had the CNMI batters under his spell early as he held the local Big Leaguers scoreless in the first four innings before giving up singles to Tenorio and Ada in the final inning.

See CNMI on Page 26



The CNMI fell to its third straight loss in the 2008 Big League World Series after losing to Canada, 2-12, yesterday in Easley, South Carolina.

PBA fetes top bowlers of the 2007-2008 season

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Philippine Bowling Association celebrated its finest keglers during its 2007-2008 awards ceremony last Sunday at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

Leading the awardees was PBA Bowler of the Year Rusty Musca who received his trophy from Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano.

Musca was the 13th and final qualifier of the Bowler of the Year Tournament but went on to win it all after beating veteran off-island campaigner Raymond Zapanta in the stepladder finals.

Finishing third behind Musca and Zapanta was Dannie Robles, while capping off the Top 5 in the 2008 Bowler of the Year were Nick Gutierrez and Efen Cacadac.

Also feted during Sunday's awards ceremony were the winners of the 2008 Budweiser Classified Tournament.

Class A was won by Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager Kitz Barja, who overtook erstwhile leader Paul Pangelinan in the six-game roll-off. He then took the championship of the Classified's marquee category after beating Simon Manacop in the finals, 202-183.

Allan Hernandez, for his part,

See PBA on Page 26



PBA Bowler of the Year Rusty Musca, top, and Classified Tournament Class A champion Kitz Barja both receive their first place trophies from Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano.

Finance/Shipping wins TDHC caging title



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Finance/Shipping team, seen here in a file photo, won their best-of-three finals series in the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League against Casino Titans last week.

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Finance/Shipping rallied from a 14-point deficit in the second half to nip Casino Titans, 102-100, in Game 3 of their best-of-three finals in the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last Thursday at the TDHC staff housing basketball court.

The third and final game of the finals had championship written all over it as supporters of both teams filled the open court venue and came armed with drums, streamers, and all sorts of banners.

The players didn't disappoint the crowd as action was intense from the get-go with Finance/Shipping getting the upper hand early and led 28-22 after the first quarter.

Casino Titans, however, began to exploit Finance/Shipping's lack of height in its eight-man rotation at the start of the second.

With only 5'8" center Michael Torregosa standing in the way of 6'3" giants Ringo

See FINANCE on Page 26

Kimo to sign autographs at PTI Wireless Express

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran Kimo Leopoldo will visit PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan today and will be available to sign personalized autographs from 5pm to 6:30pm.

sonalized autographs from 5pm to 6:30pm.

Leopoldo, who made his mixed martial arts debut in UFC III in 1994, is on Saipan to help promote this weekend's Predator or Prey, which is Gorilla Warfare Production's first foray to the local MMA scene.

PTI regional marketing man-

See KIMO on Page 26



MARK RABAGO

Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran Kimo Leopoldo is flanked by MARPAC marketing manager Jojo Camacho, left, and Gorilla Warfare Productions, Inc.'s mainland promoter Bobby Gamboa during a press conference Tuesday at Saipan World Resort.